

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

62.09

1941
Lester Rose Gardens
Watsonville
Calif.

LIBRARY

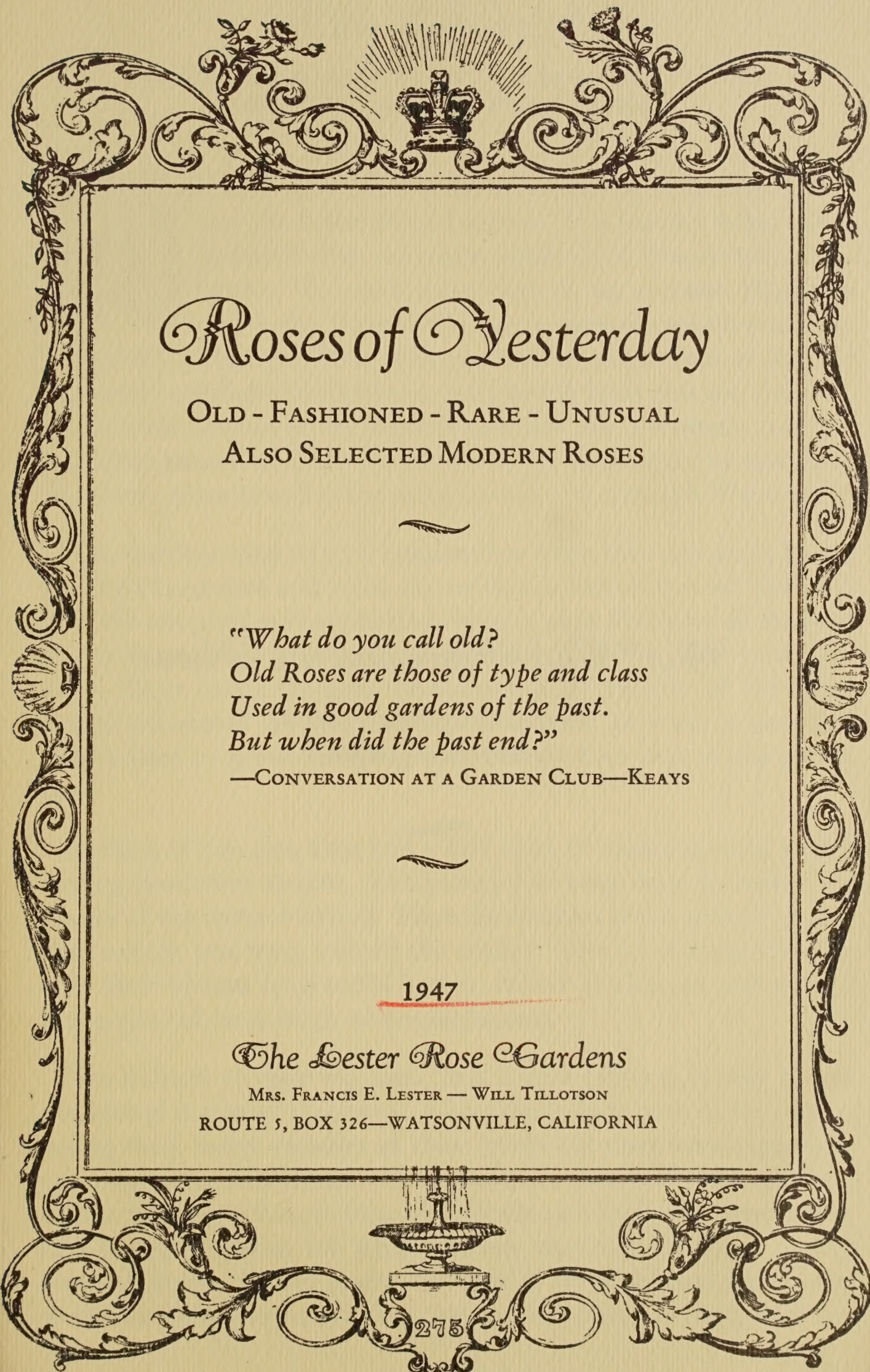
RECEIVED

JAN 17 1947

U S Department of Agriculture



ROSES OF YESTERDAY



Roses of Yesterday

OLD - FASHIONED - RARE - UNUSUAL
ALSO SELECTED MODERN ROSES

*"What do you call old?
Old Roses are those of type and class
Used in good gardens of the past.
But when did the past end?"*

—CONVERSATION AT A GARDEN CLUB—KEAYS

1947

The Lester Rose Gardens

MRS. FRANCIS E. LESTER — WILL TILLOTSON
ROUTE 5, BOX 326—WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA



The Old Roses and the New

*"I sing of Spring, flower crowned,
I sing the praises of the Rose."*



Rios Silvestres

An address before the San Francisco Rose Society, July 14, 1946,

By MRS. MERRILL A. NEWMAN, PRESIDENT



RIOS SILVESTRES is the home of Mrs. Francis E. Lester and the Lester Rose Gardens. It is located in beautiful Brown Valley, some nine miles out of Watsonville, California. To reach these gardens, we traveled Highway 101 to the Watsonville sign, a short distance beyond the little town of Morgan Hill. This road led us to the foot of Hecker Pass and the delightful mountain road which leads past the Gardens. A Shell Oil Station at the intersection was our landmark, and the attendant assured us that we could reach our destination by travelling this scenic route as well as the more prosaic way through Watsonville.

The Gardens need no post box number when the roses are in bloom for their fragrance and color are sufficient identification. An arch over the entrance gate supported the soft pink Duchesse de Brabant on one side and on the other the yellow Marechal Niel, a favorite since 1864. Once inside the gate the charming informality of the front garden enchanted us. Here were the old roses growing as they had always liked to grow, mingling their beauty with that of the perennials.

Picture, if you can, four and a half acres of roses complete with a singing mountain stream. Everything has been done to retain the beauty of the natural setting. Here the climbers are so artfully placed that nature, not man, seemed the trainer. Several of these climbers bore their blooms in graceful sprays, others in clusters, and a third group sported large single or double blooms.

The culture of these old roses, Mrs. Lester tells me, is very simple and indeed it seemed that way. Along the hillside path to the propagating field, many varieties of these lovely old roses were vigorously growing and in full bloom. These plants are watered by the rains and obtain their nourishment from the hillside on which they are planted. Less sturdy varieties are placed where they can be more readily watered during the dry season, but few of these old ones receive any of the food elements so necessary to the well-being of the hybrid tea.

The hybrid perpetuals were breathtakingly lovely. I wonder that so few of our present-day Rosarians grow the beautiful scarlet General Jacqueminot. This rose was produced in 1853 and, despite its age, will attract as much attention as the most perfect hybrid tea. Gloire de Chedane Guinoisseau, only twenty-nine years old, has long pointed buds of bright red. Mrs. Lester says this rose can be encouraged to repeat by pruning back after the heavy spring bloom.

Among the very ancient roses in this garden is Eglantine, the rose so frequently mentioned in English poetry. This rose is more noted for the delicious apple fragrance of its foliage than for the great profusion of small single pink flowers. Castilian, one of the oldest roses known, bears soft pink intensely fragrant flowers, from which, for centuries, the true attar of roses has been made.

No old rose garden would be complete without a few of the very interesting Moss Roses. The Lester Gardens have a goodly supply of these ancient ones. Old Pink Moss, termed the mother of the Mosses since she swayed the hearts of Rosarians in 1596, is very lovely. Beautifully mossed buds open to large, delicately rose-pink blooms. The Crested Moss known as Chapeau de Napoleon, because the mossy bud resembles a miniature cocked hat, has been with us since 1827. These Old Moss Roses are equally beautiful whether the petals are red, yellow, white or pink. They require but little room and should be more frequently planted.

No trip to the Lester Rose Gardens would be complete without examining that novelty of the year 1856, the Green Rose. This plant has a strange and quite unexplained freak of foliage. The buds exactly resemble other rose buds and open to double leaf green 'flowers.' This rose could more truly be called the April Fool Rose.

Rios Silvestres is a place that every Rosarian should visit whether or not his garden permits the planting of any of these old favorites. The best time is the middle to the latter part of May.



"In gardening, the division between the amateur and the professional is often but a matter of words or financial interest. The only real difference between one interested gardener and another is the time available for study, the seeing eye, and retentive memory."

—OLD GARDEN ROSES



TO THIS—THE “LITTLE ROSE LIBRARY,” OUR GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

What Is a Good Rose Catalogue?

“What sane rose-lover would be other than grateful to be given the whole truth about a rose!” —J. HORACE MCFARLAND, 1924

Would *you* enjoy a rose catalogue which emphasized a variety’s faults as well as its virtues? Would you consider well that performances vary with location and climate, and the rose which purrs for you may be unhappy even with your neighbor? These thoughts we wrote to Dr. John G. Gage, of Arcadia, California, who knows his roses and his nurserymen. We print the pertinent parts of his reply as follows—

“What would be my reaction to a catalogue which told the plain, unvarnished truth about the roses listed? I would stand up and shout!

A catalogue to get my 100% approval should not only describe the blooms, but should tell how *much* the variety blooms; whether it does best in full sun or appreciates a bit of shade; whether it is a vigorous plant or a bit on the puny side; whether or not it mildews; whether the pests find it good eating; how tall the plants become. Also whether the buds ball or open slowly, or fly open and are short-lived; whether

the blooms are 'good to the last drop', or are unpleasant to look at the second day. But Great Scott! There are so many things which should be said that I doubt if it is possible to avoid writing a book instead of a catalogue.

There are a lot of us who want nice roses and seriously try to grow them. And it is to this group the catalogue you have in mind will appeal. We have guessed and gambled and feel that we have been fooled and hornswoggled by the catalogues which describe roses as they usually 'aint.' A catalogue which tells all, both good and the bad, will be most welcome."

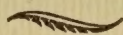
And so for you, Dr. Gage, and for you, gentle reader, we will do our best to describe our roses as we have viewed them here and elsewhere, telling "all."

This simple catalogue is written chiefly for the experienced rose-enthusiast, not that it claims any special rose wisdom, but because it lists many old and unusual varieties seldom found in catalogues of today. When available, we have used the mellow words of those wiser than we, who loved these old roses and described them well.

To you, the old customers, who knew the late Francis E. Lester, and supported his efforts to preserve the Roses of Yesterday, a special word of greeting and appreciation.

Lester Rose Gardens

MARJORIE W. LESTER — WILL TILLOTSON



"Enter then the Rose-garden when the first sunshine sparkles in the dew, and enjoy with thankful happiness one of the loveliest scenes of earth. What a diversity, and yet what a harmony of colour! There are White Roses, Striped Roses, Blush Roses, Pink Roses, Rose Roses, Carmine Roses, Crimson Roses, Scarlet Roses, Vermilion Roses, Maroon Roses, Purple Roses, Roses almost Black, and Roses of a glowing Gold! What a diversity, and yet what a harmony of outline! Dwarf Roses and Climbing Roses, Roses closely carpeting the ground, Roses that droop in snowy foam like fountains, and Roses that stretch out their branches upwards as though they would kiss the sun; Roses 'in shape no bigger than an agate stone on the forefinger of an alderman,' and Roses five inches across; Roses in clusters, and Roses blooming singly; Roses in bud, in their glory, decline and fall. And yet all these glowing tints not only combine, but educe and enhance each the other's beauty! All these variations of individual form and general outline blend with a mutual grace. And over all this perfect unity, what a freshness, fragrance, purity, splendour!"

—A BOOK ABOUT ROSES—DEAN HOLE, 1865



A Garden Subject—Love among the Tea-Roses.

Roses of Yesterday

"To have in our garden the very rose of which Petrarch or Chaucer wrote, or one which Botticelli painted so lovingly, will, to most of us, lend an added glow of beauty.

—OLD GARDEN ROSES, EDWARD A. BUNYARD

Among the large number of roses which are still with us down through the ages, are many which have survived, not alone because of association, history, and sentiment, but because they are worthy competitors of the newer creations in beauty and garden enjoyment. These we shall continue to grow. To the others, some old friends, alas, we must bid a reluctant and appreciative farewell, leaving their preservation to the collector and connoisseur.

We are indebted to Mrs. Keays, in "Old Roses" for the following bit of wisdom and sentiment,—

"Old roses, from any source they come, are not competing with modern roses any more than are iris, peonies, cotoneasters or snowballs. They are different; their uses are different; their garden habits serve different ends. Pleasure in them is different . . . We perceive scents unknown before or long forgotten. Nothing awakens associations more than odor. The old-timey perfume of the Centifolia, the

dusky sweetness of the Damask, the refreshing acid sweetness of the China roses, the penetrating, gracious sweetness of Tea roses, the woodsy pungency of the mossy glands on Moss Roses, the scent of winter apples in the foliage of the Sweetbrier—all scents of roses, and yet how various!”

At this time we have probably, one hundred fifty varieties, rating “old-fashioned, rare and unusual” whose special qualities fully justify our endorsement to you. To this collection we are adding constantly, changing and improving. We welcome any information leading to the acquisition of a “new” and worthy old rose.



Varieties

Agrippina. China. (1832.) A tall growing, very vigorus shrub rose, producing persistently, great clusters of cherry-red double blooms, shaded lighter at center, and of distinctive old-time form. Blooming for many years at the door of a good neighbor, it never fails to nod a happy greeting. Agrippina is an old and valued friend. 1.50

Aimee Vibert. Noisette. (1828.) Tall, climbing tendency, but easily controlled. Blooms all season, in large clusters of semi-double white flowers, sometimes shaded shell-pink, which shed quickly when finished. One of our most charming and valuable Noisettes. 1.50

Amelie Gravereaux. H. Rugosa. (1903.) A husky, tall growing shrub which can be trained as a climber; foliage large, leathery. Flowers are double, fragrant, carmine shaded red, on long strong stems. Persistent bloomer. 1.50

American Beauty. H. Perpetual. (1886.) No modern rose has equalled its rich fragrance; none are likely to take its place in the sentimental memories of the older generation. We must agree with its critics—it “blues” on the bush, if held too long, but why resist cutting a bouquet of these lovely roses, to open indoors, where they give so generously of their entrancing perfume. Color is deep rose shaded smoky carmine; large, full-bodied, and, with us, in constant bloom.

Available in both bush and climbing form; please specify. 1.75

Austrian Copper. Brier. (1896.) Vigorous, spreading, completely disease-resistant. This unique rose deserves a prominent place in every garden. Is covered in spring, with single, 2½ inch blooms, of intense copper-red, with old gold center and reverse, unequalled for sparkle and vivid color. It gives but once each season but that once is splendid indeed! 1.50

Austrian Yellow. Identical with Austrian Copper just described, except its flowers are brilliant yellow, prettily shaped. These boon companions should be grown together—a gay pair. 1.50

Beauty of Glazenwood. (Fortune's Double Yellow.) Noisette (1845.) Healthy Climber requiring a sunny, warm situation, and no pruning. Described by the National Rose Society of England as "orange yellow, shaded and flaked metallic red." Blooms abundantly over a long spring season, but does not repeat. "This singularly beautiful rose was the sensation of its day!"

Supply limited until next season. 2.00

Belle of Portugal. H. Gigantea. Rampant is the word for the "Portugese Hussy." Its great canes refuse to be confined, and from them hang in great profusion, enormous, semi-double, flesh-pink blooms of rare beauty, over a long spring season only. Not hardy in severe climate, completely healthy elsewhere. If we could have but one climber in our garden, it would be this one. 1.50

Belle Blanca. H. Gigantea. This is the white Belle of Portugal, otherwise identical in habit and bloom. The long, curling buds open frequently to six inch blooms. Admirers of the pink should have Belle Blanca also, a beauty in white satin. 1.50

Betty Uprichard. H. Tea. *Patent 23.* (1922) An exceptionally fine plant, performing well anywhere, but at its best in the cooler districts. Flowers are large, 14 petals, very fragrant, delicate salmon-pink, reverse carmine, with a distinct coppery sheen; in constant bloom. Its American Rose Society rating of 87%, tells its quality better than we can. 1.50

Billy Boiler. (Climbing.) H. Tea. (1927.) An Australian creation of the great Allister Clark. Dazzling red blooms, of fine form and fragrance, are produced all season on a vigorous but easily controlled plant. In our opinion rates with the best of the red climbing roses, and makes a stunning pillar. 1.50

Black Prince. H. Perpetual. (1866.) A very large, cupped, full-petalled rose of darkest crimson, shaded black—of especially fine fragrance. Vigorous, tall growing and regal; heavy summer and fall bloom. Says good customer, Howard J. Tenner, Glastonbury, Conn., "*At this writing, October 16, the Black Prince bought from you last year are now giving their last blooms for 1946. Their dark maroon shaded black flowers are just beautiful!*" 1.75

Blanc Double de Coubert. H. Rugosa (1892.) Of vigorous spreading habit, with handsome rugose foliage. Its large, semi-double flowers are of purest white, delicately and deliciously scented. Blooms freely when happy, but can sulk if situation not to its liking. This is a rose for the connoisseur. 1.50

Bloomfield Courage. Rambler (1925.) Vigorous but adaptable climbing type, and a striking pillar rose, in constant bloom. Its small single flowers are of dark velvety red, with light centers and prominent yellow stamens, borne in large clusters. For maximum brilliancy and sparkle, we like it best in full sun. No bad habits, outstanding; highly recommended. 1.50

Cardinal de Richelieu. Gallica. (1840.) "Oh I don't like blue roses," say some of our visitors, and to them, the Cardinal will not appeal. Its small double flowers, open violet-red, then pass through blues and purples to velvety black. Not for the hybrid tea lover, but deserves a place in every "advanced" rose garden. 1.75

Castilian. Rose of Castile. (Ancient.) And now comes the first real test of our introductory promise to "tell the whole truth about a rose." This ancient variety has been a specialty in the Lester Gardens from the beginning, and it seems a sacrilege for this writer to say he likes it only for its great historical interest and sweet smell. Given the right growing conditions, the semi-double, deep pink blooms, clean foliage, and antiquity would keep it on the preferred list, but because of the moisture in our spring air, just an occasional bloom opens to perfection. The many loyal friends of the old Rose of Castile must forgive me if my personal vote is only "maybe." 1.75

Chaplin's Pink Climber. Says its originator, Chaplin Bros. Ltd., Waltham Cross, England, in 1933, "*A very striking pink, maintaining its colour to the last. Produces large trusses of medium-sized semi-double flowers, which remain on the plants for a long time, from the middle of June onwards, with occasional flowers in the autumn, altogether making a grand display. Handsome, glossy foliage and quite hardy. Awards—Gold Medal, N.R.S., Cory Cup for the best new climbing rose, Award of Merit, Royal Horticultural Society. It is the best pink climber ever raised.*" Pretty strong statement for a conservative Britisher, we agree, but its beauty on the summer house this spring places it among our favorite climbers. 1.75

Chestnut Rose. (China.) R. Roxburghi. (1825.) Probably the most unique rose in our gardens, and one of the most beautiful. Vigorous, upright grower, with rich green foliage resembling the leaves of the locust tree, abundantly grown from the gray-green stalks. Ours is the double variety, about 2½ inch blooms of a lovely but indescribable rose-pink, shading lighter to the edges. "*They resemble the French artificial roses we used to wear on our straw hats,*" says Mrs. Keays, in "Old Roses." Both buds and hips are so covered with bristles as to closely resemble a chestnut burr. With us, always in bloom; a truly remarkable rose. 2.00

Clytemnestra. H. Moschata. (1915.) Spreading, bushy habit; very attractive, healthy foliage. Flowers in large clusters of pale pink, semi-double blooms, all season, but best in fall. Has only one fault, "it holds its dead." Very worthwhile for the "tidy" gardener, with clippers frequently in hand, but not for the "rocking-chair" kind. 1.75



THE CHESTNUT ROSE (R. ROXBURGHII)
(with our regrets for an unworthy illustration)

Colette Clement. H. Tea. (1931.) We think Edna Betts Ketchum, of Pasadena, California will not object if we repeat her excellent description of this charming rose as it appeared in the American Rose Society Annual of 1946, "My favorite single is Colette Clement which has the most gorgeous coral-red petals I have ever seen. The margins are notched here and there and all are a little wavy. At the base of each petal is a splash of gold which tones in with the bright yellow staemens. Often the number of petals is twelve although more frequently there are eight. The foliage is glossy, dark green and mildew resistant. It might be interesting to mention that last February I placed cuttings of Colette Clement in sand under glass; they were transplanted to pots in May, and by August, they were in full bloom." Long stemmed, very vigorous to four feet; steady bloom. 1.50

Crepuscule. Noisette. (1904.) Probably the best of the older apricot shaded climbers, with clean foliage, and steady blooming habit. Unfortunately this is not a favorite color with the writer, hence enthusiasm is lacking, but perhaps you like your roses "cot" color. 1.75

Dainty Bess. H.Tea. (1925.) The most universally loved single rose of them all. Rated 84% by the American Rose Society, given a First Class Trial Ground Certificate by the National Rose Society of England, acclaimed by amateurs and experts alike for its grand constitution, its steady blooming habit, and the graceful beauty of the large soft pink blooms, with their unique wine-red staemens.

We have both bush and climbing form.

1.50

Dr. Eckener. H. Rugosa. (1930.) Very vigorous grower with us—more hybrid tea than rugosa. Flowers are large, semi-double, coppery rose predominating, on yellow ground. Good but not exciting.

1.50

Dr. Huey. (1920.) Climber. So healthy and vigorous, is fast gaining a reputation as an understock. Blooms profusely over a long spring season, in clusters of two inch semi-double flowers; color non-fading crimson-maroon, enlivened by lighter centers and yellow anthers. Says Dr. J. H. McFarland, "*Captain George C. Thomas, Jr. will be best remembered by his superb rose Dr. Huey, named for a famous Philadelphia amateur.*"

1.50

Duchesse de Brabant. Tea. (1857.) This delightful old tea rose is best described by Mrs. Keays, writing in "Old Roses," 1935, "*Duchesse de Brabant has the shape of a deeper, firmer cup, more like a tulip, with 45 upright petals. Light gives a pearly cast over the basic pink color deepening to bright rose, and creates a glistening brightness in the smooth, transparent petals of the large, well-stemmed bloom . . . this Duchesse has been a great favorite for years for its lovely sunny color, its splendid fragrance, and its free-blooming habit.*" So many were disappointed last season, we hope our supply will be adequate.

2.00

Duchesse de Brabant White. Above our gardens, by a neighbor's cottage, has been growing for many years a charming white tea rose, so like the Duchesse described above, that Mr. Lester always called it the "White Duchesse." We are offering it in fair quantity for the first time.

2.00

Eglantine. Sweetbrier Rose. (Ancient.) It was the writer's great privilege to accompany the late Francis Lester on many walks through his garden—admiring investigating, sniffing—for his was a keen nose for good smells. Something about the apple-scented Eglantine, its age and tradition, its "Old English," as it appears at garden gate and round and about the simple Lester cottage, reminds me most of those walks, and is of deep and fragrant memory. But its charm is better told you by the old writers, to whom we will give, perhaps, more space than we should, hoping that you, too, may have pleasant memories of the Sweetbrier rose, and will enjoy reading their mellow words—

From "PLANTING AND RURAL ORNAMENT," London, 1796. "*Sweetbrier—The leaves constitute the value of this plant; for they are possessed of so grateful an odour, as to claim admittance for this sort into the first class of aromatic plants; the odoriferous particles they emit are sweet and inoffensive; and they bestow them in such profusion, especially in evenings or after a shower, as to perfume the circumambient air to a considerable distance. For this reason, plenty of Sweetbriers should be planted near much-frequented walks; or if the borders of these are designed for more elegant flowering shrubs or plants, they may be stationed at a distance, out of view, and then they will secretly liberally bestow their sweets, to the refreshment of all. For nosegays, also, there is nothing more proper than sprigs of the Sweetbrier, when divested of its prickles; for they will not only have a good look as a fine green*

EGLANTINE, CONTINUED—

in the center of a posey, but will improve its odour, let the other flowers of which it is composed be what they will."

And from the "so-quotable" Dean Hole, in a "BOOK ABOUT ROSES," England, 1869, "So may the Sweetbrier, with no flowers to speak of, remind many a gaudy neighbor that fine feathers do not constitute a perfect bird, and that men have other senses as well as that of sight, to please . . . but the Eglantine to me, when I passed through 'The Sweet Garden,' as it is called, just after a soft May shower, had the sweetest scent of them all." 1.50

Emily Gray. Large flowered climber. (1918.) Mrs. Lester refuses her approval of the original report on this variety, claiming it is "rude" and unfair to Emily, who is one of her favorites. On the good side, there could be no finer foliage, glossy as patent leather, dark green, very large and healthy, for which much might be forgiven. But oh those "light buff and amber blooms fading ecru!" (to quote a well-known authority.) How badly they fade—"ecru" does not tell the half of it. In a famous old rose catalogue we find this choice bit of uncertainty—"It is worth all the attention it may need." If you will prune away the dead flowers, Yes! otherwise Emily is not for you. 1.50

F. J. Grootendorst. H. Rugosa. (1918.) This and its companion the Pink Grootendorst, listed later, should be in every rose garden, where more variety than a mere bevy of hybrid tea beauties is desired. Plant is vigorous, disease proof, easily kept within bounds, and has the characteristic handsome rugose foliage. Blooms are in clusters, bright red in some locations, crimson in others, its unique feature being the serrated edges which almost exactly resemble a carnation; in constant and profuse bloom. You will like it. 1.50

Francis E. Lester. (1947.) Of all the many seedlings developed by Mr. Lester, in hybridization with his favorite rose Kathleen, this one he considered the finest, and we think is most worthy to bear his name. From its Musk rose origin, comes its tremendous vigour, and its great masses of bloom—for many weeks the finest display in the spring garden. It did not repeat this year as does its parent Kathleen. Flowers are in clusters of 25 to 30, about two inches across, opening pale pink, turning white, then drop quickly when finished. Among all our mass spring-flowering climbers, none are more beautiful. We hope all the old Lester customers, particularly, will plant the rose which was named for him, shortly before his death in December 1945. 1.50

Frau Karl Druschki. H. Perpetual. (1901.) Among the many names which have been given this grand old rose, probably "Snow Queen" is the most appropriate, because of its pure whiteness, and queenly form. Has every virtue except fragrance—tall, vigorous, large foliage, and free flowering, especially profuse in spring. The standard for white roses, seldom if ever excelled. 1.50

General Jacqueminot. H. Perpetual. (1853.) Again we will let Mrs. Keays describe for you, from "Old Roses" a fine old favorite—"This rose was raised by an amateur named Roussel and was introduced by Rousselet, his gardener, in 1853. What joy it must have been to grow a rose of such elegance of form, brilliancy of color, high fragrance, and hardy growth—'still a glory and a grace' . . . The bloom is not full, probably 24 to 30 petals, globular in form, quite large, very striking, of brilliant scarlet-crimson, richly fragrant . . . Of good habit and proud port."

GENERAL JACQUEMINOT, CONTINUED—

Says Dean Hole, in his "Book About Roses," 1865—"General Jacqueminot, for so many summers *THE* rose of our gardens, is still a glory and a grace, its petals, soft and smooth as velvet, glowing with vivid crimson, and its growth being free and healthful. I well remember the time when we welcomed this conquering hero, in his brilliant uniform, as being invincible." 2.00

George Arends. H. Perpetual. (1910.) This is the soft pink form of the famous Frau Karl Druschki, with all the good Frau's virtues, and unlike her, is richly perfumed. Repeats its bloom for us, and rates among our best Hybrid Perpetuals. *Supply limited until next season.* 1.75

Gloire de Chedane Guinoisseau. H. Perpetual. (1907.) A strong, upright plant to about three feet, producing intermittently, very large, cupped double blooms of live rose-pink with us—crimson-red in different localities. The originator might have been kinder when he named it, otherwise rates with the best. 1.50

Gloire de Dijon. Climbing Tea. (1853.) "Sunset hues in its heart" nicely says Dr. McFarland, but for real enthusiasm, we must quote once again from Dean Hole, in 1865—

"I obey at once the legate of my Queen. I lose no time in stating that the best Climbing Rose with which I am acquainted is that which has just announced itself, Gloire de Dijon, commonly classed with the Tea scented China Roses, but more closely resembling the Noisette family in its robust growth and hardy constitution. Planted against a wall having a southern or eastern aspect, it grows, when once fairly established, with a wonderful luxuriance. I have just measured a lateral on one of my plants, and of the last year's growth, and found it to be 19 feet in length, and the bole of another at the base to be nearly ten inches in circumference. The latter grows on the chancel wall of my church, and has often had three hundred flowers upon it in full and simultaneous bloom; nor will the reader desire to arraign me for superstitious practices before a judicial committee when he hears that to this Rose I make daily obeisance, because in passing into my church, I must duck to preserve my eyesight. Its flowers are the earliest and latest; it has symmetry, size, endurance, colour, fine tints—buff, yellow, orange, fawn, salmon, and perfume! It is what cricketers call an 'all-rounder,' good in every point for wall, arcade, pillar, standard, dwarf, en masse or singly." The good Dean leaves us nothing more to say, except the price. 2.00

Green Rose. (1856.) Whenever we book an order for this rose, (and perhaps more are ordered than any other) we are fearful lest our good customer may be expecting something in form and substance like Crimson Glory, except in sea-foam green or Chinese Jade. Certainly this rose is an interesting novelty—"the April fool rose," says Mrs. Newman, patly; but for beauty, it has only "ugh!" Its flowers are no flowers at all but a strange and quite unexplained freak of foliage; the buds open to double leaf green "flowers," edged with bronze. If you seek something "different," here it is. 1.75

Gruss An Coburg. H. Tea. (1927.) An offspring of a famous parent, Souvenir de Claudius Pernet, from which it gets its rich yellow tones, shaded in varying coppers and browns. Large, double, very fragrant. Strong vigorous plant with bronze foliage, and steady blooming habit. 1.50

Gruss An Teplitz. H. Tea. (1897.) Bushy, vigorous to six feet, a valuable rose where healthy foliage and constant color is required, especially successful in hedges. The large clusters contain as many as 20 buds, which open to a live rose-carmine bloom, with nice fragrance. Shows no signs of disease and stands up well in tough environment. We like it. 1.50

Hadley. H. Tea. (1914.) No amount of criticism from the "mildew hounds" will weaken our admiration for this handsome red rose, which needs only a warm sunny spot, or a shot of sulphur dust if the spring rains are too persistent. Its rich, deep crimson tone, fine form, and wonderful fragrance, plus its excellent blooming habit, can give cards and spades to most of the newer red roses. "When better red roses than Hadley are grown, we will grow them."

Available in both bush and climbing form—please specify. 1.50

Harison's Yellow. H. Foetida. (1830.) The old-fashioned yellow brier rose of our grandparents, brought to California in the Gold Rush days of '49. Grows to six feet; fern-like rich green foliage; flowers—small, semi-double, bright yellow, in profuse Spring bloom only. Needs no coddling. 1.75

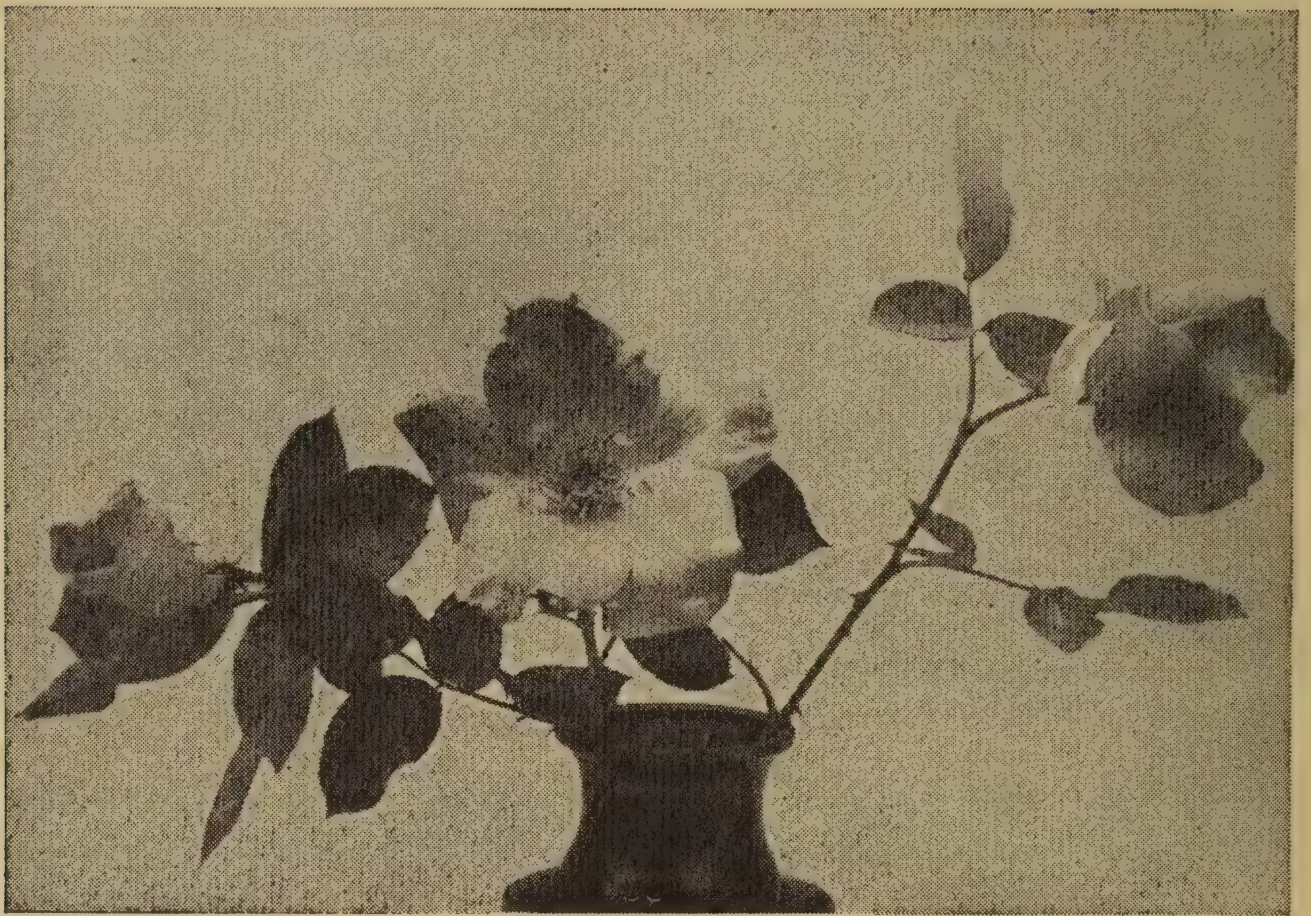
Hermosa. China. (1840.) Once again we call on Mrs. Keays to describe a favorite and delicately beautiful old rose, of which, unhappily, we have very few until the spring of 1948. "*Hermosa 1840, sometimes Armosa, for long years everybody's darling and still the darling of many because of deep associations; a Rose of so definite and pure a pink, or delicate rose-color, that 'Hermosa Pink' has become a standard by which to translate a certain shade. Hermosa is very double, cupped, in a refined and perfect form, of small size, fragrant, lasting well, showing a very close relationship to the China rose, and sometimes classed as a China. Hermosa is a steady, consistent, generous bloomer, on shoots bearing branching clusters, always gay, fresh and cheerful.*" 2.00

Hugonis. Golden Rose of China. "Most important shrub rose of recent times" says Dr. McFarland in his "*Roses of the World.*" In our garden, its fern-like foliage of varying shades, and its mass of single, clear yellow flowers along the tall canes, is a special Spring delight. To Roy E. Shepherd of Medina, Ohio, writing in the American Rose Society annual, 1946, we are indebted for the following, "*R. Hugonis grows vigorously under conditions that would be fatal to others. Although catalogued as reaching a height of six feet, I have succeeded in growing it to over 12 feet by planting it in very poor soil. The 2½" yellow blossoms are produced along the entire length of the long arching canes.*" 1.75

Innocence. H. Tea. (1921.) A five inch, 12 petalled rose, of purest white, with wine-red staemens, in profuse bloom all season; its one fault—no fragrance. Strong, healthy plant, with dark, disease-resistant foliage. (Apropos of nothing at all, of course—out of six rose enthusiasts of the weaker sex, only one was able to spell Innocence correctly!) 1.50

Irish Elegance. H. Tea. (1905.) Tall, strong, ever-blooming plant, with nice clean foliage. Blooms are large, five petalled, and vary with the seasons from a bronzy, deep peach touched scarlet, to lighter apricot hues. A favorite bouquet rose of Mrs. Lesters' and liked by many. The writer prefers Irish Fireflame for its stronger coloring. 1.50

Irish Fireflame. H. Tea. (1914.) A large, single rose of rare beauty—long spiral crimson buds, open to old gold, splashed crimson blooms, frequently five inches across. Another leading bouquet rose in the Lester household. Its bronze foliage is unusually handsome; tall grower. 1.50



ISOBEL—EVER-CHARMING!

Isobel. H. Tea. (1916.) Probably the largest of all the single roses and certainly among the most beautiful; the long copper buds open to flaming pink. Erect, healthy, and unexcelled in its class. 1.50

Joyous Cavalier. H. Tea. (1926.) A very vigorous, non-bluing, glowing scarlet rose, with no faults or bad habits. Dr. McFarland describes it in his "Roses of the World" as follows—"As this writer grows it, Joyous Cavalier is just that, for it may be so placed in the edge of the shrubbery that its rich, honest red flowers are flaunted continually against the darker surrounding foliage of lilacs and the like. The plant is of strong, upright growth, and has been found exceedingly satisfactory in its ability to care for itself." 1.75

Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria. H. Tea. (1891.) Medium, upright grower, producing all season, large, very double, snow-white blooms of fine form, on long stems. Shares top honors with Frau Karl Druschki, as the best, all-round standard white rose. 1.50

Kathleen. H. Moschata. (1922.) No-one has described this lovely rose so well as Mr. Lester, with whom it has long been a special favorite, not only for its unique beauty, but because it was a parent of many of his own best creations. We quote extracts from his writings—

"Kathleen has a strong shrub habit of growth; its large, leathery foliage is very attractive, remaining on the plant in this climate all the year. It is entirely resistant to disease or insect pests. The flowers come in huge clusters from early spring to late frosts, each individual bloom well spaced from its companions, like a glorified apple blossom, fragrant with the old musk rose scent. These flowers are followed by huge

orange hips, lasting all winter, indoors or out . . . In this altogether lovely rose, Kathleen, we have a simple beauty that even the hardened modern cannot resist. It is a descendant of the old Musk rose from which it gets its exquisite fragrance and from which it inherits its vigor and extraordinary resistance to neglect. I grow this rose in both deep shade and full sun, in good soil and in the poorest, and have come to greatly respect its tolerance for adverse conditions. Its flowers display an open countenance and an intimate charm—the kind of rose that will talk to you, if you understand its language.” 1.75

Kazanlik. R. Damascena. (Ancient.) This is the famed perfume rose of the Balkans, grown there for generations in the production of attar of roses. Flowers are semi-double, in clusters mostly three to five, about two inches across, rosy pink. Plant is bushy, spreading, about four feet tall, well shaped and “with a bright and happy look.” 2.00

K of K. (Kitchener of Khartoum.) H. Tea. (1917.) Noted for its semi-double, dazzling scarlet blooms, over a long season, on a well-branched, healthy plant. If you are a lover of brilliant red roses (and what *man* isn't) you will hunt through many catalogues to beat this one. 1.50

La France. H. Tea. (1867.) This is the first Hybrid Tea variety, which alone, should justify a place of honor in every rose garden. But La France needs no historical interest to merit that honor—the large, very double, silvery pink blooms, delightfully fragrant, are reason enough. We quote again from Mrs. Keays in “Old Roses”—“*With pleasure we relate the ancestry of this lovely forerunner of a great class, a rose which ‘has staying powers which in horses and athletes win the race’ says Bravy, a Tea rose of 1848, cream white, large and full, symmetrical and fragrant, our so-quotable Dean Hole. From various sources we gather the story that Mme. beautiful and much admired, was pollenized with Mme. Victor Verdier a Hybrid Perpetual of 1863, carmine-crimson, large and full, fragrant and of globular shape, considered outstanding in that class of superb roses. The result was La France.*” 1.75

Lady Ashtown. H. Tea. (1904.) Mrs. Lester's favorite rose-pink hybrid tea; large, double, fragrant, consistent bloomer, bushy, spreading habit, rich green foliage. 1.50

Lady Forteviot. H. Tea. (1928.) A fine golden-yellow, touched with shades of tawny-brown; large, double, very fragrant; excellent blooming habit. Bush form is low growing, spreading; climber vigorous, but adaptable; striking bronze foliage. Highly regarded here and abroad.

Both bush and climbing types available. 1.50

Lady Hillingdon. Tea. (1910.) Nobody with an “anti-apricot complex” should be permitted to write descriptions of Lady Hillingdon and the many fine roses of similar hue; at best he will “damn them with faint praise.” Lady Hillingdon can take more “damning” than this humble writer could give her and still emerge one of our most popular tea roses, described by the authorities—“Bud long pointed; flower semi-double, open, fragrant, deep apricot-yellow. Foliage bronzy, bushy. Characteristic steady Tea blooming habit.” For the lovers of the apricot shades in roses—unexcelled. 1.50

Lamarque. Noisette. (1830.) An old-time, lusty climber, with nice clean foliage. To speak disparagingly of Lamarque seems lese majeste and its thousands of staunch old friends—Mrs Lester included, no doubt will rise and smite me forthwith—nevertheless I do not like the little “dish-mops” which follow the lemon-white blooms, especially when they are out of reach of the pruning shears. So hasten your order, friend of Lamarque for we shall not grow it after this season. 1.50

Lord Charlemont. H. Tea. (1922.) One of the fine old McGredy roses of a quarter century past. Clear, deep crimson blooms, large, double, and of richest fragrance. Strong bushy plant. A true aristocrat. 1.50

Magna Charta. H. Perpetual. (1876.) A very husky, upright plant, producing enormous, cup-shaped blooms of rose-pink, entrancingly sweet-smelling; repeats for us, and among our prime favorites. 1.75

Maman Cochet. Tea. (1893.) Another great favorite of the Lester Gardens, but only for mild climates. Flowers are large to 4 inches, very double and fragrant. Its special feature is its unique color—sometimes pale pink, sometimes cream, beautifully shaded with various tones of rose. Vigorous, tall growing shrub, in constant, never-failing bloom. Highly recommended. 1.50

Maman Cochet White. Tea. (1896.) This is a white sport of the original Cochet. It graces our summer house, and produces long, curling satin buds, sometimes flushed pale pink, of rarest beauty. 1.50

Marechal Niel. Noisette. (1864.) “A celebrity among climbing roses,” still unexcelled in the clear, golden-yellow class, when planted in warm, sunny locations, not hardy in severe climates. Says Mrs. Keays, in “Old Roses”—“*The Primrose way of yellow Tea-Noisettes leads us to this loveliest of the solidly golden-yellow climbing roses. Very large and deep, full to the brim, very highly scented, very lasting on the plant or cut for the house; a rose to be looked up to, from below, as the stem is weak for the huge globular bloom. Marechal Niel caused a great sensation when it came out, and causes the like now wherever it is grown and blooms.*”

And from Dean Hole, 1869—“ . . . Since the time when a baby in floriculture, I first began to take notice of Roses, more than thirty years ago, three new stars of special brightness have glittered in our firmament—Gloire de Dijon, Charles Lefebvre, and Marechal Niel. The latter is, I think, the greatest acquisition, because we had no hardy Yellow Rose, previous to its introduction, realizing, as Marechal Niel does, in the wonderful beauty of its pendant flowers, their size, shape, colour, fragrance, longevity and abundance—our every desire and hope.” 2.00

Marie Leonida. Bracteata Hybrid, early 19th Century. Nature has given this tall, bushy plant, the handsomest, most luxuriant foliage of any rose we know. Try hard as she does all season, however, Leonida seems unable, in this climate, to open its full white buds to anything near perfection. We hope some of our friends in the warm, inland valleys will give her a place in the sun—as surely that wonderful foliage deserves a chance to prove itself, under friendly conditions. 1.50

Marshall P. Wilder. H. Perpetual. (1885.) One of the typical, sturdy old scarlet-crimson hybrid perpetuals, with blooms of great size, full petalled and richly fragrant. Seldom grown today, and becoming a rare collector's item. 2.00

Max Graf. H. Rugosa. (1919.) Dr. McFarland, in "Roses of the World," tells the story so well for Max Graf, we will add nothing to his words, except to say it is "par excellence" also throughout our garden—"A curious hybrid is Max Graf, resulting in a vigorous, trailing (not climbing) plant with disease-resistant, rugose foliage, contrasted in June with many three inch bright pink, golden-centered blossoms. This Rose is par excellence for covering a bank or making a hedge. It will stand much shade and yet prosper, and it needs no coddling. Max Graf is unique in its class, and if it had appeared through the usual novelty-promotion methods, might now be in many places that need it." 1.50

Mermaid. H. Bracteata. (1918.) We cannot think of Mermaid except in association with Frank Lester, and the beautiful specimen plant which he trained over the Lester Rose Garden sign carved by his own hand. Much has been written about Mermaid, in highest praise, but no-one has excelled the clarity and honesty of his own words which follow, because, perhaps, his admiration was so great—

"A Climbing Rose of inexpressible beauty, quite different to any other, strongly recommended by us for all climates since introducing some years hence, each year with heartier response and greater praise. The wax-like, leathery, deep-green foliage is quite disease proof and, in mild climates, quite evergreen. The enormous, single, yellow, deliciously fragrant flowers, each with its great mass of golden stamens, are of rare beauty and borne continuously all through the season. Seedling of Rosa Bracteata, a fine Asiatic Wild Rose, it withstands neglect and is quite free from attacks of the usual rose pests. Can be grown as climber with support up to twelve feet, but is best suited to low wall or fence, on a bank, or as massive, handsome garden shrub." LESTER CATALOGUE 1933. 2.00

Mme. Alfred Carriere. Noisette. (1879.) We quote the terse description of the National Rose Society of England, 1945, and add a hearty "ditto." For us, also, it is "the best white climber."—"White, shaded blush. Vigorous Climber. For Pillar, arch, pergola, east or north wall. The best White Climber. Blooms again in Autumn. Very fragrant. Makes a beautiful pillar rose. Mildew proof." 1.50

Mme. Butterfly. H. Tea. (1918.) We are strong admirers of the fine old Ophelia, and Mme. Butterfly is its favorite child. Deeper in color—"Pink, faintly tinted gold," sweetly fragrant, gracefully formed—rated by the National Rose Society, 1945, "best of its type." 1.75

Mme. d'Hebray. Centifolia. (1820.) In our garden notes, June 23, 1946, appears the following—"This has turned out to be one of the most attractive of our 'new' old roses. Its blooms seem unaffected by any of our pests and its fragrance is delightful; is the typical cup-shaped, many petalled Centifolia. Color clear, lasting, gentle pink. Blooms in clusters of three to six. Healthy, vigorous, many caned bush." Mrs. L. says "wonderful!" 2.00

Mme. Hardy. Damask. (1832.) We repeat our statement in last year's catalogue—"the finest of its Damask type," with the added emphasis and enthusiasm of another season's experience. There is something so jewel-like, so exquisitely perfect in the arrangement of its many pure white petals, it might well serve as a model for Tiffany. Nature, thinking better of its almost austere creation, has added a touch of palest pink in the center. Just another over-enthusiasm of ours, you say? Well, here are the words of Bobbink & Atkins, who should know, "*We consider it the most beautiful and fragrant of the white old fashioned Roses.*" 2.00

Mme Jules Bouche. H. Tea. (1911.) Only its date places Madame with the older roses, as her characteristics are more modern than old, except that time has proved her virtues. Porcelain white is her color, says the National Rose Society, but as the double flower first opens there is an attractive pink tint to the center. Tall, vigorous, persistent and profuse bloom in both bush and climber. Preferred by many experts as the finest White Rose.

Bush and climbing types available. 1.50

Mme Victor Verdier. H. Perpetual. (1863.) This big, lusty rose stands in the display garden at the foot of the much-used path leading to the hill. Last spring, we watched its great, fat buds in clusters of six or more, open to enormous blooms of richest, deep-carmine, fairly shouting at us as we passed, to come sniff its sweet fragrance. 2.00

Mrs. Anthony Waterer. H. Rugosa. (1898.) We have viewed this beautiful and unusual rose under many conditions, here and elsewhere, and consider it one of the most interesting, in our collection. Plants are strong growers, the handsome ribbed foliage most attractive except in the late season, and its deep crimson almost purple blooms are unlike any other rose we know. Intensely fragrant, profuse and constant flowering. 1.75

Mrs. Henry Bowles. H. Tea. (1921.) Here is a glowing, rose-pink lady, whose well-shaped buxom blooms are of exhibition quality, borne on a vigorous plant, with excellent foliage, and no bad tricks. Rated a special note in this writer's inspection book, when seen this spring in competition with a chorus of modern, highly touted beauties. 1.50

Mrs. John Laing. H. Perpetual. (1887.) We are chagrined that this special favorite of ours, for unavoidable reasons, will not be available until the following spring 1948.

Musk Rose. R. Moschata. This is the wild brier rose of the Himalayas, of enormous vigour, its great canes, frequently growing to unbelievable lengths in a single season. For us it thrives and blooms profusely, in sun, and almost full shade, but nothing can stop its lust for living. Certainly not a rose to be confined in a tiny city lot but wherever it can fountain in great canes, or ride a fence or cover some unsightly spot, The Musk Rose is unexcelled. The magnificent corymbs of two inch, five petalled, white flowers, through a long spring season, inspire more "ahs and oohs" than anything in the display gardens. And any who know not the strange illusive scent of the Musk Rose, have something rare in store for them. 1.75

Old Blush. China. (1796.) Inspiration for the poet Moore's immortal poem, "The Last Rose of Summer." We call immediately on Mrs. Keays—whose description is not only charmingly written, but is a fair and accurate judgment—

"Rising from the base in strong, upright stalks, each stalk branching into side shoots, with clusters of bloom at the ends and side shoots, Old Blush China is a rose to reckon with, for no other rose, old or modern, unless it be Old Blush's child, the early type Noisette, blooms in more abandoned freedom, taking only a short rest between bursts of bloom. Each rose in the cluster is a fluttering loose assemblage of pink petals, deeper in the outer petals, whiter at the base, varying in depth of pinkness. Not fully double, with large petals, fine and lasting, the impression is one of airiness and gaiety . . . Old Blush is a rose to visit often, for being of a true everblooming habit it goes on its gay way all summer and until cut by frost. The fragrance has a sweetness dashed with a sort of acid or astringent counter-scent, very different from other sweet scents, not strong but stimulating and refreshing—difficult to convey in words." 2.00

Old Spanish Rose. Gallica. (Original name unknown.) This big shrub rose was discovered by the Lesters on one of their journeys through the Mother Lode Country—where it was known only as the "Old Spanish Rose," and no amount of research since has discovered a more accurate name for it. From early to late spring, it is covered with two inch double blooms, similar in form to the Provence Roses, starting from deep, rich magenta, which progresses to dark violet in the open flower. For best effect it must be helped in "shedding its dead" otherwise the beauty of the opening buds is marred by the older blooms, which are much too persistent in their desire to remain. Thrives on neglect with us and should be hardy anywhere. 2.00

Ophelia. H. Tea. (1912.) This is a very famous parent rose, 28 of her children having been judged worthy of commercial propagation, although we suspect grandmother, herself, is still the best of the lot, (unless it be Mme. Butterfly, previously described.) We like Ophelia for the rare delicacy of its flesh-pink coloring, its satiny sheen, and handsome form. Steady, dependable bloomer; good plant.

Both bush and climbing types available. 1.50

Papa Gontier. Tea. (1882.) A large, husky plant—long a famous greenhouse rose. The two toned, rose-pink blooms are not too well supported on weak stems, and the open flower ages badly, in the garden, although the buds perform nicely indoors. Tea fragrance, steady bloomer. Many an old memory is associated with Papa Gontier, and many will want it for a long time yet, even though much better roses are available, both old and new. We shall continue growing a limited quantity each season. 1.75

Paul Neyron. H. Perpetual. (1869.) A lusty, robust grower to four or five feet, with heavy spring bloom, continuing with us. We like Mrs. Keay's description which follows—"Paul Neyron, 1869, raised from Anna de Diesbach and Victor Verdier, is an achievement. Wood is almost smooth, almost without prickles; foliage very large, smooth, tough and wavy. The bloom is enormous, deeply cupped, reflexing its outer petals, opening into a ruffling semi-globe of deep rose-pink with a dash of lilac, much like LaReine but, point to point, bigger and more handsomely furnished, with a calyx even more tri-angular in outline. Paul Neyron chooses to live long in old gardens and is likely to be met with almost anywhere. When you see the biggest rose you ever saw in an old garden, most likely it is Paul Neyron." 1.75

Persian Yellow. H. Foetida. (From Persia to England 1837.) Unique in every respect, from its fern-like foliage, to the manner in which its rich, butter-yellow blooms are borne along the large canes. Dean Hole says—"*This Rose is almost the earliest to tell us that summer is at hand, first by unfolding its sweet leaves, of a most vivid, refreshing green, and then by its golden blooms.*" 2.00

Phyllis Bide. Rambler. (1923.) We are most unhappy to inform the many friends of this great favorite, our plants will not attain the desired size in time for spring planting. We shall have Phyllis Bide in good supply, the following season.

Pink Grootendorst. H. Rugosa. (1923.) A strong, lusty, upright grower, with handsome rugose foliage, completely disease resistant. This is the "carnation rose" its petals almost exactly resembling a small carnation. As this catalogue is written, October, its beautiful clusters of soft pink flowers are one of the prettiest sights in the fall garden. 1.50

Polly. H. Tea. (1927.) A robust lass, is Polly—descendant from Ophelia, mother of many fine roses, from whom comes its delicate shell-pink coloring, sometimes cream, shaded pink and gold, in autumn. Very fragrant, double and well formed. The National Rose Society says of Polly—" . . . *not liable to disease; does not mind wet. Awarded a First Class Trial Ground Certificate.*" 1.50

Prince Camille de Rohan. H. Perpetual. (1861.) This regal rose of darkest, velvety maroon-red, is planted in our display garden, among a group of such famous modern roses as Lowell Thomas, Fred Edmunds, Grande Duchesse Charlotte, Peace, Christopher Stone, and others of similar merit. While these newcomers were struggling against the hot summer sun, the aristocratic old Prince burst forth with some breath-taking blooms, and, from its tall position, seemed to look down on the *nouveau riche*, with pride of race and royal disdain. 2.00

R. Damascena. (Damask Rose.) Ours is semi-double, with deep carmine-rose tones, and golden stamens, blooming in clusters, over a long season, followed by long, scarlet hips. Grows to about five feet—its great age guarantees its strength and resistance. And still once again we quote from "Old Roses," Mrs. Keays—"Rosa Damascena, a rose suggesting poetry, travel and romance said to be a native of Syria, the rose brought to France by the Crusaders and thence to England, a rose claimed by a long and mythical past, takes its date in England from 1573, according to William Paul." It is said the Damask Rose grows on Omar Khayyam's grave at Nashipier. 1.75

R. moschata Abyssinica. (Abyssinian Musk Rose.) One needs the whole repertoire of words like strong, lusty, robust, rampant, exuberant, and unbridled, to describe the growth and blooming habits of this Musk variety, as certainly the nurserymen's favorite word "vigorous" is totally inadequate. We have often wondered what would happen, if some unsuspecting and inexperienced city dweller, should plant the Abyssinian Musk Rose, in a little rose plot, expecting it to be companionable with "Pink Blurp" and a couple of other cuties! For the country gardener only—with lots of space, and surely you will be rewarded with masses of pure white single blooms, over a long spring period—a treat you will gladly wait for. 2.00

R. Moyesi. Western China. Not for the beginner, is this lovely species, for it is as temperamental as a prima donna (and twice as beautiful as most of them.) Vigorous to about ten feet, when it likes its environment. We must credit Bobbink & Atkins for the best color description—*"It is a vivid yet deep, warm, velvety reddish terracotta, a color one sometimes sees in old needle-work, and impossible to describe."* Roy E. Shepherd says of it—*"Unfortunately it does not thrive under all conditions as do most species but it is so distinctive it deserves a trial in every garden."* Supply very limited, until spring 1948. 2.00

Rosa Mundi. (*R. gallica versicolor.*) (1875.) A hardy, robust plant, producing a big spring crop of large, semi-double blooms, white or very pale pink, broadly striped red; some petals are all white, others all red, some half white and half red. Pleasantly fragrant. The National Rose Society calls it—*"the best of the striped Roses."* A striking rose for seekers of the unique and different. 1.75

R. Odorata. China. This is a famous understock used in many localities for the root system on which the newer varieties are budded. It appears to be completely neglected as a garden rose, in its own right, yet we were greatly impressed this spring with its clean foliage, long blooming season, and the beauty of the white cluster bloom, just touched in the center with pale pink. We like also, its ability to "age gracefully." None available this season, but in the spring of 1948, "Fun Jwan Lo," its Chinese name, will appear in the Lester catalogue with our endorsement. (Of course, some "funster" may discourage us by suggesting we change the name to Fun Ran Low.)

Rosa Omeiensis. (the Omei Rose.) In case you have never attempted to write a rose catalogue, may we say here that such terms as "unusual" become somewhat threadbare with too much usage. We would like to have reserved the word for The Omei Rose, to which unusual, and most of its synonyms—uncommon, curious, rare, odd, unique, extraordinary—certainly apply in big measure.

The flower is small, white, and unimportant, except it is one of the few roses with only four petals. But the tall canes bear thorns or prickles, winglike and translucent, while young, which glow like fire, especially when the sun is behind them. The effect is further beautified by the fern-like lush-green foliage. Our friend, Dr. Gage, to whom we are indebted for introductory comments herein, asked us the other day to recommend some roses to plant across the end of his hybrid tea garden—think he had something pretty and genteel like Kathleen, in mind. I suggested the Omei Rose, to which he finally succumbed, in some doubt, I must admit, for the Doctor knows what he wants and does not persuade easily. This comment is intended for *all* gardeners, whose rose plots are well filled with their favorite hybrid teas, and whose taste for "just another new rose" is somewhat jaded. Why not try such varieties as Omeinensis, Roxburghi, Soulieana, and the like—maybe a new rose thrill is in store for you. *Supply too limited for many "thrills" this season; plenty next.* 2.00

R. Soulieana. West China. If we were asked to decide our favorite spring blooming cluster rose, for mass display, it would be hard to choose between The Musk, *R. odorata*, (Fun Jwan Lo) and Soulieana. Soulieana is more "reasonable" in growth, hence more adaptable to space allotted it; foliage attractive blue-green. It blooms in great trusses, of 1½ inch, single, white flowers—rather late in spring, but long lasting. The meticulously truthful Mrs. Lester says it will repeat in fall, if hips are removed; but her partner in October is still waiting for said autumn bloom. 2.00



THE OMEI ROSE. ITS TRANSLUCENT PRICKLES ARE AFIRE!

R. Sweginzowi. China. It is most unfortunate that this delightful plant must bear, until forgotten, a name which so quickly condemns it to all but the collectors and connoisseurs. Our specimen is on the frequented path to the store-house, and in all stages from its charming two inch single shell-pink blooms, borne along graceful canes, to the great crop of scarlet hips which followed, it has been greatly admired by everyone.

2.00

R. Watsoniana. (Watson Rose) Japan. Large growing, bushy shrub with pale green, grass-like foliage and tiny pale pink blooms in clusters; interesting for its strangeness, but certainly not beautiful. Collector's item.

2.00

Rainbow. Tea. China. Picked up by the Lesters on one of their adventurous journeys through the Mother Lode Country. Origin and history unknown to us. Charming globular blooms, similar to Duchesse de Brabant, start cream color at center and darken to deep crimson at the outer edges. Decidedly "different."

2.00

Reve D'or. Noisette. (1869.) Strong growing, climbing type, with superior foliage, extending to the base of the plant. Flowers are double, well formed, described by Mrs. Keays, as "*soft yellow, outside a pale pink, so the general color is of a buffy pink shade, with yellow shanks . . . This is an excellent rose, healthy, happy, free of bloom.*" We like everything about this famous old Noisette, except the tenacity with which it holds the faded blooms to the sometimes bitter end.

Supply limited.

2.00



ROGER LAMBELIN, UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL

Reveil Dijonnais. Climbing. H. Tea. (1931.) Honestly described in our last catalogue—“*Here is a highly distinctive rose of great charm; semi-double, cerise, with large golden center, outside of petals yellow, streaked carmine; excellent as a climber and a stunning pillar; prolific, constant bloomer in California.*”

Supply limited.

1.75

Roger Lambelin. H. Perpetual. (1890.) Given a spot it likes in the sun, Roger Lambelin is hale and hearty, and blooms generously all season. So far as we know, there is no other rose like it. Color is a rich deep red, shaded magenta, and each petal is edged with white, and fringed like a double petunia; exquisitely perfumed. A “must have” for the connoisseur.

2.00

Rose A Parfum de l’Hay. H. Rugosa. (1903.) The Damask Rose and the famous General Jacqueminot are in its parentage, and account for the enormous blooms and wonderful fragrance. Foliage is rugose from the other side of the family, and plant is robust and free blooming. Says Bunyard in “Old Garden Roses”—“*I do not know any more richly scented rose than the Rugosa Parfum de l’Hay. A contralto scent in contrast with the Tea’s soprano.*”

Supply limited.

2.00

Rose des Peintres. Centifolia. (Ancient.) A lusty symmetrical plant producing in spring, double rose-pink blooms of great charm, which you have admired in reproductions of the old Dutch painters. Consider among our very best and most characteristic old-world roses.

2.00

Rosette Delizy. Tea. (1922.) When the rose garden is “quiet,” this lively and luxuriant tea rose will be in full-bloom—it literally never stops. Flowers are medium size, pert and well formed; basic color is cadmium-yellow, outer petals dark carmine, in very pleasing contrast. Enthusiastically recommended.

1.50

Shalers Provence. (Old.) While we have only a few plants for the coming season, we think our more experienced rose friends will enjoy extracts from Mrs. Keays' comments on this old rose, seldom seen today—

"Shailer's Provence is a rose to cherish. It differs from all the cabbage roses, in having a bloom which is cupped in the form of the anemone. The bush is as hardy as the old red Gallica, making a growth of from four to five feet, branching and suckering . . . Its full flower is a lilac-pink with white shanks to the petals, the bud being a vinous pink . . . Sometimes the blooms come singly, often in three. Blooms break from almost every leaf-bud down the long shoots, making the second year of this bush very showy . . . So curiously different is this rose from pink Cabbage that we probably would never have identified it without the illustration in Miss Lawrance's book, although Shailer's is described in many lists. One gets little help from such descriptions as this, 'A curious hybrid differing from the Provence rose generally.' " Let the writers of rose catalogues take this last comment to heart. 2.00

Shot Silk. H. Tea. (1924.) Says the National Rose Society, 1945—"Color cerise, shaded orange-salmon. Petals 27; moderately vigorous; very fragrant; foliage almost free of mildew. A beautiful bedding rose which should be planted closely." Mr. Lester always said of it, if he were limited to growing but one bush rose it would be Shot Silk, because its habits and performance are so excellent. And writing for the Pacific Rose Society in 1945 he included it in his three favorite roses, out of the hundreds with which he had been so long familiar. This writer, yielding to the Lester enthusiasm some years ago, planted a Shot Silk Climber in his garden at Redlands, California, where the hot summers are not too kind to roses. Nothing in that garden of 225 varieties, exceeded Shot Silk in all those qualities which combine to make a rose good; certainly none were more exquisitely beautiful.

Both bush and climbers available.

1.75

Soleil d'Or. Pernetiana. (1900.) Moderately tall, bushy plant of excellent health and habit. Famous as being the foundation of the great Pernetiana class of roses. From its Persian Yellow ancestry comes its beautiful yellow tones, shaded nasturtium-red; flowers large, double, fragrant. Different and intriguing. 2.00

Sombreuil. Tea. (1851.) We again page Mrs. Keays, to describe with clarity, a distinguished old favorite—

"This rose has a marked mixture of Bourbon blood in the Tea rose ancestry. The full, fragrant bloom has a fine expanded form, within which very strongly textured petals stand in excellent order and stiffness, making a grand rose of creamy white tinted with pale pink or pinkish white, depending on the weather, becoming white eventually and lasting in form a long time; blooming in large clusters on a very sturdy bush with thick dark green foliage, quite leathery and more deeply serrate than the pure Tea foliage. Sombreuil, with all this resistant toughness, should be the finest white Tea rose in the garden, and is such, in dry, clear, sunny weather but a too moist spring causes the blooms to ball badly." 2.00

Souv. de la Malmaison. Bourbon. (1843.) A famous and influential rose "with a haunting fragrance." Another of our special favorites and of Mrs. Keays also, for she writes of it with much charm and favor—"Souvenir de la Malmaison, 1843, a grand old rose and a tremendous favorite in the past. The bloom is often very large, always full, of refreshing fragrance. Its thick petals are quartered and neat, of a pale flesh-color with center rosy or rosy buff, the light playing over them with a translucence which is enchanting and typical, like the light of history over the mistress of Malmaison."

2.00



MRS. LESTER AND ROSA HUGONIS

Tausendschon. Rambler. (1906.) (Thousand Beauties.) Wonder if that "Stormy Petrel" of the Rose world, Roy Hennessey will shoot us if we crib verbatim, his excellent description of the beauteous Tausendschon—"Another rose for which time has brought no improvement in its type. It is entirely thornless, very hardy, and blooms considerably all summer long, with trusses of cupped, two inch blooms from pink to white, on the plant at the same time. To coin a name for it I would call it 'Pastel Pillar,' as, by using it for a pillar it is most effective. It is also hardy below zero." (Thank's Roy: Don't shoot!) 1.75

Tricolore de Flandre. Gallica. (1846.) Of moderate growth and good habit, producing double blooms, of lilac-white, striped with light red and deep crimson. Another for the connoisseur. 2.00

Ulrich Brunner. H. Perpetual. (1882.) A tall, lusty plant which shrugs its big shoulders at pests and diseases. Blooms are very large, cupped, full, and sweet-smelling. Color described by the experts, "geranium-red passing to cochineal-carmine." Supply limited. 1.75

Veilchenblau. Rambler. (1909.) This is a many-caned, strong growing climber, with clean, glossy, but not evergreen foliage. Produces great masses of spring bloom, in clusters of 1¼ inch semi-double cupped flowers starting brilliant crimson, then passing quickly to magenta and darker shades. This writer's Pillar of Veilchenblau in Redlands some years ago was a "picture in violet tones" of superb beauty.

1.75

Vierge de Clery. Centifolia. (1888.) A healthy symmetrical plant, unusually prolific spring bloom, only. Snow white, double flowers, very sweet-scented. We ventured a comment this spring to a visitor that "we preferred Mme. Hardy," to which our frank friend responded—"Well, I prefer . . . what's that you call it, anyway that one there"—pointing to Vierge de Clery. Its an old saw, that difference of opinion makes horse-races—and also keeps rose growing interesting. 2.00

William Allen Richardson. Noisette. (1878.) Says "Modern Roses"—*"Sport of Reve d'Or; bud pointed, flower double, fragrant, pale buff-yellow to apricot-yellow. Very vigorous, climbing, very free (spring) bloom; Needs protection north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers."* Far be it from us to argue with such an authority as Mrs. Keays, especially as we are so greatly indebted for so many delightful descriptions. But this time, we shall quote only that bit from "Old Roses" which tells of a child, who, when seeing the blooms of our good William Allen, said—"Oh, mama, look at the poached eggs!"

1.75

York & Lancaster. R. damascena versicolor. (1551.) Abundant spring bloom on a strong, bushy plant. "The rose nor red nor white but stolen of both," says Shakespeare. In fact we have so many "quotes" for this variety, we know not where to begin or leave off—for no rose has had so much mention, and none a more interesting history. To Dean Hole, we are indebted for this good bit—

"York and Lancaster, thus called because it bears in impartial stripes, the colours, red and white, of those royal rivals who fought the Wars of the Roses, recalling Shakespeare's lines—

*And here I prophesy. This brawl today,
Grown to this faction, in the Temple Garden,
Shall send between the Red Rose and the White,
A thousand souls to death and deadly night."*

But whether or no, you are a student of English history, and know your Shakespeare by heart, you will like York and Lancaster alone, for its gay and varied coloring, sweet scent and wealth of bloom.

2.00



*We hold none other flower in sic dainty,
As the fresh Rose in colour red and white
For if thou dist, hurt is thine honesty
Considering that no other flower is so perfite
So full of virtue, pleasaunce and delight
So full of blissful angelic beauty
Imperial worth, honour and dignity.*

—ROBERT DUNBAR, 15TH CENTURY



GLOIRE DE DIJON, CLIMBER—"WITH SUNSET HUES IN ITS HEART"

Climbing Roses

"If Solomon said that 'of making many books there is no end,' surely the same may be said of Climbing Roses; for when will their multiplication ever cease? Yet do we wish it to cease? I, for one, love them too well not to desire more and yet more, and again more. New or old, Summer-flowering or perpetual, Tea, Noisette, Rambler, Ayrshire, Cherokee or Bramble-leaved from North America, Wichuriana from Japan, Sinica from Tartary, Brunonis from the Himalayas, or the last new Hybrid, all are thrice welcome wherever wall, bank, fence, arch, pillar, dead or living tree can be found for them." —ROSE G. KINGSLEY

Pillar Roses

"Pillar Roses, some rising singly here and there, like the proud standards of victorious troops, some meeting in graceful conjunction, saluting each other like our forefathers and foremothers in the stately minuet—bowing themselves like tall and supple cavaliers, into arches of courtesy, with keystones of cocked hats. In both stages these Pillar Roses are beautiful additions to the Rose Garden."

—A BOOK ABOUT ROSES, DEAN HOLE, ENGLAND, 1869



Rosa muscosa multiplex.

Rosa muscosa à fleurs doubles.

W. A. Redoute pinx.

Engraver de Paris.

Longfils sculp.

THE MOSS ROSE BY REDOUTE, 1824

The Moss Roses

"Suggestive of lavender and old lace." —DR. MCFARLAND

Nothing we might say today about these delightful Moss Roses could equal the rich words of the old writers. We will let them describe for you this sweetheart rose of the last century.

You who received last year's catalogue, will forgive us if we repeat the Calvadas Legend of the Birth of the Moss Rose, too good to be omitted,— "*... and the Angel, with dew-laden wings, being weary, begged of the Rose a night's shelter. Awakening refreshed, she asked how such hospitality might be repaid. 'Make me even more beautiful,' replied the Queen of Flowers. 'But what grace can I add to the most beautiful of all flowers,' said the Angel; and then, glancing at her mossy bed, she gathered some and placed it on the Rose's young buds. Thus was born the Moss Rose.*"

—THESE ROSES ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, AND I HOPE ALWAYS WILL BE, FAVORITES; FOR WHAT CAN BE MORE ELEGANT THAN THE BUD OF THE MOSS ROSE, WITH ITS PURE ROSE-COLOUR, PEEPING THROUGH THAT BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE ENVELOPE."

—THOMAS RIVERS, THE ROSE AMATEUR'S GUIDE.


"The Flower Garden is their proper place; and we think a greater space should be allotted them there than is usually done. No roses can be more interesting; certainly none are more beautiful."

—WILLIAM PAUL.


We cannot resist including here, (remote to rose cataloging as it may be), the incident described by the famous Dean Hole, in his "Book about Roses," first published in England 1869, an extract from Chapter X, as follows,—

"... It is, nevertheless, as true an incident in my history as it may be a strange statement in the reader's ears, that, once upon a time, hard on fifty summers since, I was driven out of London by a Rose! And thus it came to pass: Early in June, that period of the year which tries, I think, more than any other, the patience of the Rosarian, waiting in his garden, and vexing his fond heart with idle fears, I was glad to have a valid excuse for spending a few days in town. To town I went, transacted my business, saw the pictures, heard an opera, wept my annual tear at a tragedy, visited the Nurseries, rode in the Park, met old friends, and was beginning to think that life in the country was not so very much 'more sweet than that of painted pomp,' when,

engaged to a dinner-party, and to enliven my scenery, I bought a Rose. Only a common Rose, one from a hundred which a ragged girl was hawking in the streets—a Moss Rose-bud! But as I carried it in my coat, and gazed on it, and specially when, waking next morning, I saw it in my water-jug—saw it as I lay in my dingy bedroom, and heard the distant roar of Piccadilly instead of the thrush's song—saw it, and thought of my own Roses—it seemed as though they had sent to me a messenger, whom they knew I loved, to bid me 'come home.' . . . And I arose, reflecting; and though I had taken my lodgings and arranged my plans for three more days in London, I went home that morning with the Rosebud in my coat, and wandering in my garden at eventide, armed with a cigar in case I met an aphid, I exulted in my liberation from smuts and smells, and in all the restful peace, and the fragrant beauty, which glowed around me."



To save repetition, ALL Moss Roses, offered herein, are unequalled in any class, for their robust constitution and immunity to rose diseases. All are distinctively sweet-smelling. There is some variation in their habits, but generally, they tend to grow many canes from the base, which, if uncontrolled, reach almost climbing proportions. They will fill as much or little space as their owner desires, for a year's growth of any rose may be removed by a few snips of the pruning shears. We have seen no conditions under which Moss roses will not bloom, and any retailer who tells you otherwise, is either ignorant, does not have any, or "lies in his teeth," if you will pardon us a touch of vehemence. Moss roses, however, thrive on neglect, and too much food and water forces them into growth instead of bloom. Don't coddle them. We believe it is wise to prune yearly, when dormant, to about half their attained size, thus keeping the bush symmetrical, and adding much to the size of the blooms. So—just plant them in good but untreated soil, give them a loving pat, and pass them by when feeding your hybrid teas, spraying, dusting, and fussing, for secretly they are laughing at their delicate, blue-blooded cousins who require so much more attention.



"And the amateur, especially if a woman, hampered with tiresome petticoats, must have space in which to move, in order to pick off caterpillars, cut the flowers whether alive or dead, and see to all the various needs of the rose plants."

—ROSE G. KINGSLEY, 1908

Varieties

Blanche Moreau. White Moss. (1880.) Probably the best of all the White Mosses; blooms in clusters on long stems; well mossed buds open to double, sweet-smelling flowers of purest white. Sometimes, not often, repeats after its heavy spring bloom. 1.75

Comtesse De Murinais. (1843.) A parent of Blanche Moreau. Blooms are about three inches, and come more singly than many of the Mosses, starting flesh pink, then turning pure white. One of the rarer varieties and an item for the Moss Rose collector. 2.00

Crested Moss (1827.) Discovered on the wall of a convent near Fribourg and sent out by Vibert in 1827. Only Mrs. Keays can do justice, to this, our favorite of all the Mosses, "*The Crested Moss has a grace and charm no other rose has. Decorative crests are arranged on the bud that they form a three-cornered decoration and fluff out at the top like a little bunch of plums. The breaking bud is exquisite. Bloom is a perfect R. Centifolia of fine deep pink. Crests are often found on the foliage. The whole picture is an instance of rose magic.*"

To the "*Chapeau de Napoleon*," our own hats are off in admiration. 2.00

Duchesse d'Istrie. Moss. (1855.) Blooms in large clusters of a dozen or more buds, opening to 2½ inch double flowers of pale pink, delicately touched lilac, and exquisitely scented. For the connoisseur. 2.00

Gloire Des Mousseaux. Moss. (1852.) This is probably the favorite Moss rose of the experts, with a more dramatic, bold and handsome quality than the others. "...*Another excellent survivor is Gloire des Mousseaux, a French rose of 1852. The fragrant bloom is very large, full and proud in bearing; free in coming, strong in staying. The color is flesh pink with a deeper pink center. The form is globular like R. Centifolia and the foliage is large, strong, and plentiful. Clustering blooms, reflexing sepals, the mossy, bristly, flowering branch tell us that here is a hybrid, Centifolia, Damascena and who knows what else.*" —MRS. KEAYS. 2.00

Golden Moss. (1932.) This rose has an interesting parentage, Frau Karl Druschki x Souv. de Claudius Pernet x Blanche Moreau. With so much royal sap in its stems, it could not produce other than blooms of great distinction. Flowers in clusters of 3 to 5, 37 petals, tawny yellow. Buds are globular and well mossed. 2.00

Mme. Louis Leveque. Moss. (1898.) With us the color is pale pink, touched violet, but is described elsewhere as "brilliant salmon-pink." Blooms in large clusters, and both plant and flowers are bigger than most of the other Mosses, with a corresponding deeper, richer fragrance. Is repeating its bloom this fall. Could this indicate that even the fine old Mosses, might be bettered?

Attention Duehrsen, Lammerts, all expert hybridizers, near and far! Give us an ever-blooming Moss Rose, retaining all its present charms, and *join the rose immortals!* 2.00

Pink Moss. (Ancient.) The mother of all the Mosses brought to England from Holland about 1596. It is growing under all conditions in the Lester display gardens, and greets us happily, through a long spring season, from many nooks and corners. We believe our best blooms are in part shade. Supply is far inadequate this season for the usual demand. 2.00

Red Moss. (Ancient.) Not "red" as we understand the meaning of the word, but deep live carmine. With us, the most prolific of any, and recommended to those who are at all dubious about success with Moss Roses. 1.75

Yellow Moss. (Ancient.) Definitely yellow and a necessary addition to any Moss rose collection. Has all the good habits, vigour and fine Moss fragrance of its companions. 1.75



For the Moss Rose Novice. We offer one each, Blanche Moreau (white), Old Red, and Old Yellow Mosses, delivered you all charges and taxes included.. Total three plants. Moss offer No. 1 4.50

For the Connoisseur. We offer one each Comtesse de Murinais, Crested Moss, Duchesse d'Istrie, Gloire des Mousseaux, Mme. Louis Leveque, and Golden Moss, delivered, all charges and taxes included, 6 plants. Moss offer No. 2 11.00

Substitutions

"Substitute something incredible, or superb, or bewildering—something to make a lady squeal." —PAUL J. LINSLEY, 1946

"May we substitute?" Probably no expression in a catalogue, so greatly arouses the ire of the rose enthusiast, who has dissected and devoured all the descriptions, judged and re-judged the sincerity of the writers thereof—planned and re-planned just the right rose for exactly the right spot in the garden, only to be asked, with irritating politeness, "if he or she would not be just as happy with something else."

We understand your resentment and hasten to agree! But however anxious the nurseryman may be to please, he cannot always supply your wants. Rose growing, variety selection, number of plants—all must be decided at least one year in advance, and there are many uncertain factors which effect a rose crop, the same as with fruit or vegetables. As this catalogue is written, October 1946, we do not know for sure how many of each variety will be harvested, or the exact date they will be ready to go to you.

So *you*, dear customer, can be helpful and save us both much delay and correspondence. If your desire is for but one or two of something very special—check "No" under Substitutions, on our enclosed Order Form. Your wishes will be respected and your money promptly refunded. If your order is a larger one, suggest a few alternatives, second choices. We will not take advantage of your confidence; we will always send what you order, if we have it.

Thank you!



The Gay Polyantha

*"A miniature of loveliness,
All grace, summed up, and closed in little"*

We are again indebted to Rose G. Kingsley, writing in England, 1908,—

"The Dwarf Polyantha Roses are derived from the summer-flowering, climbing Multiflora, and in them we get a first cousin of a rose like Crimson Rambler, for instance, so dwarf as to make a charming two feet high edging to an ordinary rose-bed, and so thoroughly perpetual, that from May to December it is thickly covered with its hundreds of miniature flowers in clusters. How these tiny roses, which remind one of the "Fairy Rose" of long-ago nursery days, came into being, is not exactly known. But they are evidently the result of crossings with the Tea Rose strain. Guillot developed the first, Ma Paquerette, pure white, flowering in large bunches, in 1875. In 1879, Rambaux followed with the charming Anna Maria de Montravel, one of the best known of its class. The next year, Ducher brought out the lovely Cecile Brunner, blush, shaded pink, and the race was fully recognized. Since then nearly every year has seen fresh varieties; and the charming little plants are growing in favour. These roses may be roughly divided into two classes; one showing the Polyantha blood very strongly; the other the Tea blood."

The usefulness and beauty of these happy, sparkling, little roses has been undervalued in America, probably through lack of publicity, whereas, in England, they are given a prominent place in all important gardens.

Walk through the nursery fields with the experts who do the actual growing, and you will find them passing the hybrid tea beds with only casual and sometimes jaded interest, to enthuse about their favorite "polys," the life and gayety of their color, and their truly everblooming habit.

Whether planted in low growing borders to hide the "legginess" of the tall growing sorts, or in groups through the rose-beds; whether used as garden decoration or mass bouquets, no roses are more enjoyable; none give so much for so little.

In addition to the small-flowered, low spreading types, of which we consider The Fairy, LaMarne, Chatillon and Orange Triumph distinctive examples, we have the important FLORIBUNDAS, in which the tea strain predominates,—taller and larger flowered than the dwarf polyanthas, but still in profuse clusters and always in bloom. Of these, we like especially Else Poulsen, Pink Lafayette, Donald Prior and the newer Red Ripples.

We intend to improve and enlarge our collection of these charming and valuable rose strains, and give them the publicity they so well deserve.

Varieties

Cameo. Low growing, 15 to 18 inches. Semi-double, small, cupped flowers in clusters, first salmon-pink, then turning to shell-pink, shaded gold. Profuse, all season bloom. Rated second by the National Rose Society, England, in 1945, out of a large field of Polyanthas. 1.25

Cecile Brunner. (Known also as Mignon and the Sweetheart Rose.) If rose gardeners everywhere were asked to name their ten favorite roses, regardless of class or size, we believe Cecile Brunner would be included more than any other—it is so universally loved. Its small exquisite pink buds, are as perfectly formed as the finest hybrid tea. We have admired it in low growing borders, in groups among the other roses, and in the great masses of pink bloom given so bountifully and repeatedly by the climbing form. For greatest rose enjoyment, we consider Cecile Brunner among the six best roses in anybody's catalogue. 1.25

Chatillon Rose. Low growing, spreading type, producing in great profusion, the longest lasting pink cluster bloom, of any we have noted. Will mildew a little if subjected to long periods of cold, damp weather, but its fine qualities are well worth a little sulphur dusting if needed. 1.25

Chatillon White. Identical with the pink Chatillon described above, except its pinkish buds open to a good clean white, turning very slowly to ivory as the clusters age. This writer prefers the White to the Pink, but both are tops in the Polyantha class. 1.25

Ellen Poulsen. Excellent! but not available until next season.

Ideal. Low growing, to about 18 inches—spreading. Dark, velvety crimson, which holds its color well, and is an unusual shade in the low-growing Polyanthas. Best in its color range. 1.25

La Marne. Medium grower and one of the most prolific bloomers. Its cluster blooms are blush white, edged pink. Thriving all over the Lester gardens, even without summer irrigation. A prime favorite. 1.25

Mrs. R. M. Finch. Grows to 3 feet, when uncontrolled, and equally broad. Flowers in impressive clusters, of 2 inch double blooms, rosy-pink—its habit of changing first to blush then white, creating a varied and most pleasing color effect. Viewing Mrs. Finch last spring, in a big display of polyanthas, this writer recorded, "VERY pretty pink, spreading, great clusters; healthy; outstanding!" 1.25

Nypels Perfection. Medium growing; described "hydrangea-pink, shaded rose-Neyron-red." In clusters. Vigorous, spreading; well regarded. 1.25

Orange Triumph. Low growing to two feet, unusually healthy foliage. Many of you will tire of reading the much-mentioned catalogue comment that "orange" is not the word for it (except in Germany where it originated) and some fine day, perhaps somebody will suggest, for American commerce, it be called Scarlet Triumph, Coral Triumph, or anything but orange. For this is a remarkably fine Polyantha and should not be handicapped by a deceptive title. If you have never grown any polys, and are gingerly approaching the possibility of doing so, begin with Orange Triumph, and you will be off to a mighty fine start. 1.25

Perle d'Or. Low growing to about 15 inches, vigorous and healthy—color orange—apricot center shading to white; form resembling Cecile Brunner. Mrs. Carlton Stull will forgive us if we recite a recent incident in correspondence with her. Among 50 or 60 other roses, she ordered 8 Perle d'Or; I liked her selections and said so, excepting, Perle d'Or, on which I commented, "ever poach a pigeon's egg?" With characteristic snap and precision, comes back her reply, "Change to 8 Poulsen's Yellow." And now what do we do, for, alas, Poulsen's Yellow can look a bit "scrambled" when the sun is too hot. Well, anyway, gentle reader, we have Perle d'Or. YOU decide. 1.25

Poulsen's Yellow. This is a low growing polyantha with unusually glossy, rather pointed foliage, immune to mildew, and provides a handsome background for the semi-double bright yellow cluster bloom. Fills the need for a good yellow in this class, although, like most yellow roses, large or small, it will not hold its color when the sun is too ardent, and fades to white. 1.25

Springtime. *Patented.* Low to 1½ feet, bushy. Produces in clusters, semi-double, cupped flowers, described "wild-rose-pink, with white centers." Believe best in the warmer districts, as color near the coast was not up to standard. 1.25

The Fairy. Of very low, vigorous spreading growth. Turns up its nose at mildew and refuses to be bothered with any pests or diseases. Double, rosette type flowers, are of a most charming clear, pale pink, borne constantly in attractive clusters. We will match this delightful Polyantha against the field, and take all bets. The Fairy, in our opinion, is the best low-growing Polyantha, the hybridizer has yet created. Fully equal to Orange Triumph in vigor and blooming quality, we like better the delicate color so nicely suggested by its Fairy title. *Try it and be glad!*

1.25

Floribundas

Larger-flowered, everblooming

Donald Prior. *Patented.* Grows to four feet, but easily restrained; faithful and profuse bloomer. Flowers in clusters, deep, clear red, semi-double, 11 petals, on strong stems. The National Rose Society rated it second in its class, and called it "the best of the dark coloured varieties."

1.35

Else Poulsen. Grows three to four feet, robust and erect. Heavy and constant bloomer. Flowers are in clusters of one dozen or more, on long stems—bright rose-pink, with eleven petals. Says the National Rose Society, "a very beautiful bedding variety."

1.35

Gruss An Aachen. "Most useful of all the Polyanthas," says Dr. McFarland in 1938, and still rates today among the best low-growing, large-flowering varieties of its type. Blooms are flesh-pink, with a touch of salmon, outstanding for delicacy, profuseness, and resistance to mildew.

1.35

Kirsten Poulsen. If permitted, will grow to big proportions, but easily adaptable; excellent foliage. Blooms continuously in great sprays of single, bright scarlet flowers, and presents a "big show" when massed. Mrs. Lester says, "This is my favorite red."

1.35

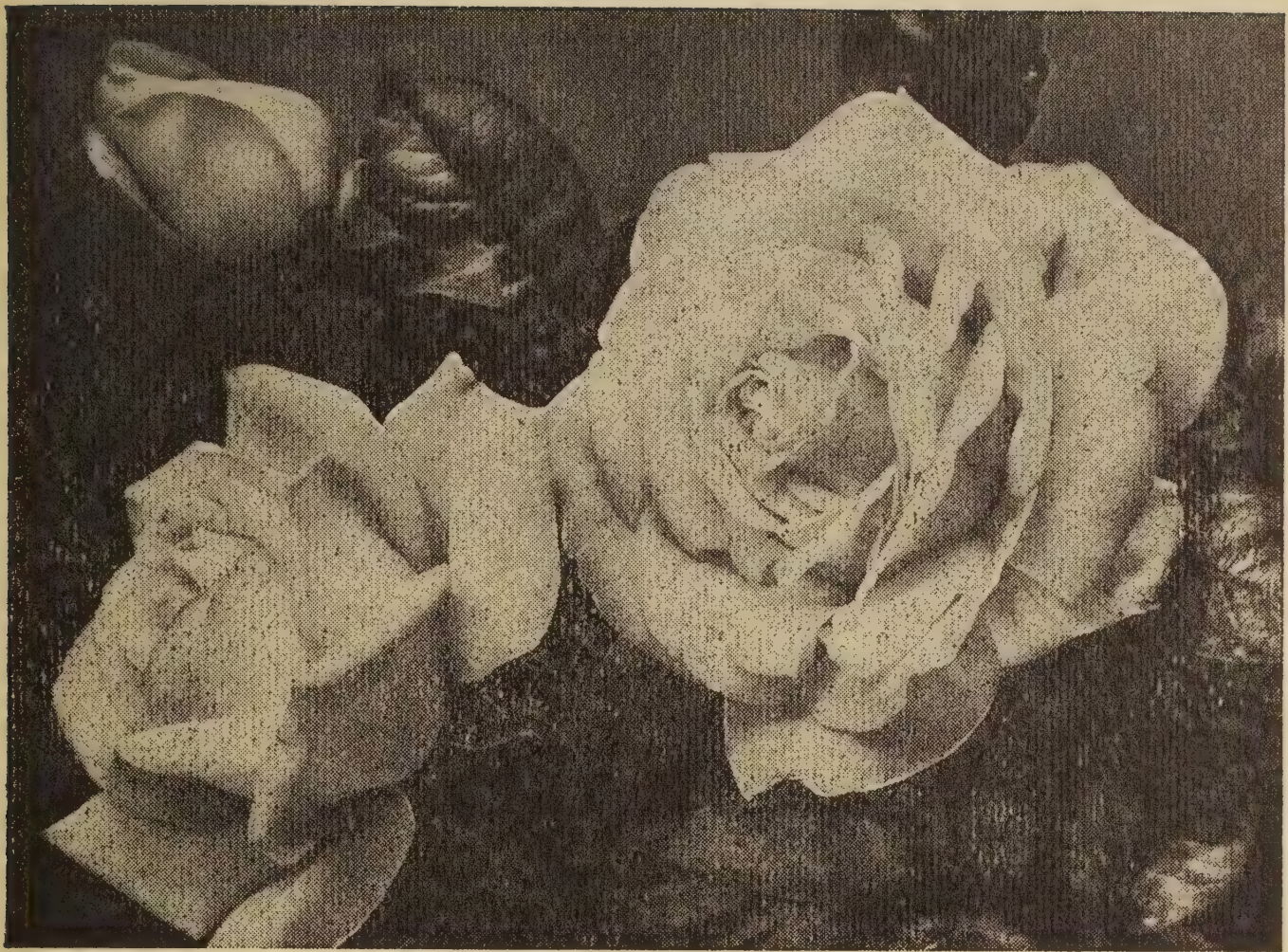
Pink Lafayette. Medium, compact grower, which we like better than the original "Lafayette." Produces large clusters of clear rose-pink, semi-double flowers, the entire season.

1.35

Red Ripples. *Patented.* Upright, healthy grower to four feet. We rate it the best of all the newcomers in the red or crimson color range, both as to plant and blooming habit, and the rich, glowing beauty of its clear red flowers. Can stand up in hot sun, and sheds its finished flowers quickly. "This is a honey."

1.50

Note. In this larger-flowered Floribunda or Hybrid Polyantha class we like also Betty Prior, Floradora, Improved Lafayette, Karen Poulsen, Rosenelfe, Smiles and Worlds Fair, and recommend them highly. Unfortunately, our plants of these varieties are not likely to make the desired size by harvest time, but we shall have them, postively for spring 1948 planting.



PEACE! YOU ARE GREAT! WE OLD-ROSE LOVERS SALUTE YOU!

The Newer Roses

"... I have inserted in this list, Roses only, whether new or old, that are distinct, good, and above all free and healthy in their growth; the flowers are all of full size, and perfection in colour; in short, any varieties selected from it, even at random, will prove good and well worthy of cultivation."

—BOOK ABOUT ROSES, DEAN HOLE, 1869

Some body said, "There are no bad roses but some are better than others." With this thought, we shall attempt to describe our selection of the Newer Varieties.

Back through the ages, probably twenty-five thousand roses have been recorded, yet how relatively few survive today. It has not been enough that a rose be beautiful to look upon. It must have stamina; must give freely, either in a glorious mass of spring bloom, or in steady, all-season performance; it must put up a strong fight against diseases and pests. Rose blooms should be lasting, and the stems long enough to bouquet. The perfume should be pleasing, for no rose to us is completely beautiful which is not richly fragrant. Where is such a paragon of rose virtue, you say!

Many factors are at work to improve rose standards and much has been accomplished. To the hybridizers whose patience created such roses as Charlotte Armstrong, Crimson Glory, Fred Edmunds, Grande Duchesse Charlotte, Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek, Peace, The Doctor, to mention only a few, our hats are off in deference and gratitude.

Rose lovers everywhere owe much to "All-America Rose Selections" whose test gardens and point scoring system protect us against over-advertised superlatives. An All-America award is a rare distinction; the rose that wins this honor is good indeed!

To the American Rose Society, and its annual "Proof of the Pudding," and the Pacific Rose Society, with its "Pacific Rose Reporter," a hearty bravo! Here the amateur rates the new creations with cold facts and home performance. The composite opinion thus created, may not be technically perfect, but it provides an unbiased and non-commercial guide to the best new roses. We continue to mention these ratings, whenever available.

"Color is intangible in translation from a flower in a garden to a sentence in a book," says Mrs. Keays. To this, we might add, rose color varies widely under different environments. Our reports on this important rose feature are an attempt to blend for you the best information and authorities.

While our hearts are with the old-fashioned roses, we shall offer our customers each season, those of the new creations, which have won our admiration. The rose varieties which follow, have few faults and are selected carefully for their many virtues. True some do better in cooler climates; some like best the inland sun; but the acid test of varied conditions and locations have been applied to them, and these we think the most worthy.

Angels Mateu. (Angels Mantle.) *Patent 174*. This is one of the finest creations of the famous Spaniard, Pedro Dot. Rated 76% by the American Rose Society, and given a "First Class Trial Ground Certificate" by the National Rose Society of England. Robust, disease-resistant; abundant bloom. Flower is large, double, globular, on long, strong stem—flame shaded gold; ripe blackberry fragrance. In this writer's inspection notes, appears the following, "May 1946—Enormous, lush, healthy; . . . good!"

1.50

Blaze. *Patent 10*. From its parents, Blaze gets the vivid color and form of the popular Paul's Scarlet, and has added the recurrent blooming habit of Gruss and Teplitz. We have yet to see any climber which fully justifies the term "ever-blooming," but Blaze is a dependable repeater, especially in fall. Vigorous and hardy, with scarlet blooms, galore.

1.50

"Cat-in-Bag." Every nurseryman, however careful, finds himself each season, with a few bundles of roses from which tags have been lost, and positive identification impossible before blooming. They are all No. 1 plants, but variety, color, type—*quien sabe?* If you like to gamble, here's your chance—you may be delighted or not-so-delighted, but the thrill of suspense alone is worth the price. 1.00

Charlotte. Somebody said "Dainty is the word for Charlotte" and this describes the young offspring of hybridizer Carl Duehrsen, in a nutshell. Frequently mentioned as similar to the popular Picture, but with us, much more prolific and constant, its blend of salmon-pink, coral and gold tones, providing a sparkling bouquet whenever that special copper vase of ours needs beautiful roses. 1.50

Charlotte Armstrong. *Patent 455.* Only the natural modesty of Mr. Audrey Armstrong keeps this All-America Winner out of the "\$2.00 class," for its many virtues surely place it with the best. Has every trait which the most critical rosarian could ask for—robust, tall growing, and will not even toy with mildew. Its long pointed buds, on fine cutting stems, keep coming, when other good roses are vacationing for the summer. The experts' color description, "blood-red" is inaccurate as we see it. From her aristocratic parent, Crimson Glory, a little "blue" is inherited, alas, which appears when the summer sun is hot, and Charlotte Armstrong is unhappy. 1.50

Christopher Stone. A splendid scarlet rose, rated high, 80%, by the American Rose Society, and given a First Class Trial Ground Certificate, by the NRS of England—rare honors both. Bushy, medium grower, with good health and a constant performer. Says authority Roy Hennessey, "*Nearly the perfect rose.*" Certainly only a "perfectionist" like Roy could ask for more.

Both bush and climbers—please specify. 1.50

Contrast. The ARS rating of 68%, while still placing Contrast in top-flight, reflects the popular preference for one-toned roses. But to those of you, who are tiring a bit with your all reds, yellows, pinks and whites, this interesting and striking rose will strongly appeal. It is very vigorous to 4 feet, a steady bloomer, and produces some rare, fully double flowers, described, "China pink and bronze, reverse white and bronze." We included Contrast in our selection of 25 outstanding roses after inspection of 500 display varieties, last spring. 1.50

Crown of Gold. For the many lovers of yellow roses, here is a tall growing, stout fellow, with long strong stems, and good habits, producing double, high-centered blooms of deep gold, shading lighter to the edges. 1.50

Debonair. *Patent 677.* A brand new yellow rose—too new with us to pass judgment, but bearing the highly respected trademark, "W. E. Lammerts" to whom the rose world is deeply indebted for many of its finest roses. Reported by the introducers—"Bud like Golden Dawn in color, with pink or red markings on outside in cool weather; flower large, double, high-centered, color of Golden Emblem, passing to butter-yellow; long stem. Foliage large, leathery, glossy, dark. Very vigorous, 3½ feet; upright, bushy." 2.00

Fiesta. *Patent 389.* Though our supply is too small until the following season, to warrant the catalogue space required, we cannot resist defending an old favorit against such epithets as "vulgar, barber-pole, circus rose" etc. and the bad rating of 45%, by the A.R.S. We challenge any of said critics to pass Fiesta in anybody's garden without notice—for its gay vermilion petals, striped yellow, always shout a happy greeting. To those who complain about too little growth—stop reaching for long stems when cutting bouquets—this is no Charlotte Armstrong or Texas Centennial; let it grow! Still the cheeriest, brightest and best named novelty in Rosedom, and a mighty good plant, when gently treated. 1.50

Fred Edmunds. *Patent pending.* This great rose was created by the famous French hybridist, Meilland, introduced here in 1943. Rated by the members of the American Rose Society, among the best ten roses. Luxuriant, bushy, rather open grower, to three feet. Its twenty petalled blooms are deep coppery-orange and hold their color to the end. *Highly recommended.* 2.00

Golden Dawn. For several years, this beautiful yellow has been judged first rose in America by the national membership of the A.R.S., rating 92.6% favorable reports last year. Lest this still leaves you cold, it was granted a First Class Trial Ground Certificate, by the National Rose Society of England, who call it, "*one of the very best varieties of recent years.*" We can think of nothing to say against it; this rose has *everything!* 1.50

Golden Dawn. *Climbing. Patent 243.* Produces steadily throughout the season, well-formed, fragrant blooms, of 35-45 petals—"sunflower yellow, flushed old rose." Unquestionably tops, among the modern yellow climbers. 1.50

Good News. *Patent 426.* Another from the French expert, Meilland in 1940. Rated eleventh—80%, by the A.R.S. last year. Its ancestry includes Radiance, Souv. de Claudius Pernet, Joanna Hill and Comtesse Vandal, famous roses all. Bloom is large, double, globular, on strong stems; color varies with climate and location, but silvery pink and copper tones predominate. "*Just about fool proof,*" says a man who knows, and "*just about the prettiest rose in anybody's garden,*" say we. 1.75

Grande Duchesse Charlotte. *Patent pending.* An All-America award winner in 1942. If we were asked to name the most distinguished of the many modern beauties, our choice would be the Grande Duchesse. Tall and straight, she looks down graciously at her lesser companions, yet with a certain regal aloofness, as befits her station. Her blooms are of such indescribable tones, the experts have pawed over the color-charts, with widely different results—one says, "*tomato red, shaded geranium-red.*" Another, "*rich claret opening to lovely begonia-rose.*" Still another, "*glowing morocco-red, opening to dusky coral-red, merging to soft coral-pink.*" Shall we try our luck, also? No—we could only add the tone "chestnut," for this describes best to us, the deeper richer coloring. We are chagrined to finish a glowing rose portrait, with such commonplace words as "*Supply limited until spring 1948.*" 1.50

Heart's Desire. *Patent 501.* All-America award 1941. Our good friend, Mrs. Carlton Stull, is so enthusiastic about this rose, it is fitting we should use her own words to describe it for you, "*Heart's Desire! Now there is my idea of a red rose! Planted three weeks later than the others, it is right up with them in growth and it has been putting out great big, luscious, show-quality blooms all the time. That rose enjoys life; it eats and grows and throws its weight around. That lusty, boistrous quality tickles me!*" (Bravo, Mrs. Stull! How about you writing the rose descriptions for the catalogue next year?)

Both bush and climbing types available. 1.50

Hinrich Gaede. Rated 75% by the A.R.S. and given Honorable Mention by the N.R.S. of England. Best described nasturtium red, shaded orange, 50 petals; raspberry fragrance. Probably best in the interior districts. Gives generously throughout the season, and is an outstanding beauty. 1.50

Lucie Marie. A big, luscious rose, of excellent form—buttercup yellow, shaded salmon, moderately fragrant, grown on a robust plant. Included by us this spring, in the 25 roses, considered most worthy, out of a display of some 500 varieties 1.50

Mark Sullivan. *Patent 599.* Good anywhere, but superb in the cooler districts, where its striking color—yellow flushed Tyrian rose, appears in richest and most varied tones. Dr. Gage, Pasadena, says of it, "*Very vigorous growth; profuse all-season bloomer; spring and fall flowers exceedingly colorful.*" It has been this writers special pleasure on frequent occasions, to gather the roses used by Southern California's best-liked speaker, to illustrate his rose talks. The one variety that never failed us *any* time, was Mark Sullivan, always ready with a gay and scintillating bouquet. 1.50

McGredy's Ivory. (Portadown Ivory.) Thought by many who should know, the finest white rose in commerce; rated 97% (a record) by the American Rose Society, and granted a First Class Certificate by the NRS of England. Long pointed buds, of creamy white, open to 28 petalled blooms of great distinction. A white rose should be big, handsome, and fragrant. McGredy's Ivory is all three. 1.50

McGredy's Yellow. The rose world owes much to the McGredy family, Portadown, Ireland, who have given us many prize-winning roses, of which McGredy's yellow is probably the most popular. Rated 80% by the A.R.S., and given first place by the English professionals last year, in their Exhibition and Garden Rose class. This is a 27 petalled rose of lovely form. Is at its best near the coast, where the soft yellow blooms are unfading, but not to be denied to the interior district, for spring and fall blooming.

Both bush and climbing types available. 1.50

Mirandy. *Patent 632.* Another big, double (40-50 petals) rose, from the hybridizing genius of W. E. Lammerts. To discuss, "vigor, disease-resistance, and plant habit" about an All-America winner, seems superfluous, for no rose which is lacking in these qualities can reach top honors. But Mirandy is acknowledged to be moody in the coastal regions, and thrives best in the interior sunshine, where it is an exceptional beauty. Color is garnet-red, with that sweet, spicy fragrance. Grows to about 2½ feet and needs no coddling. 2.00

Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek. *Patent pending*. An All-America winner by Carl Duehrsen, the creator of many beautiful roses, who conceals much deep rose-lore behind that modest demeanor. This tall, stately rose, like the great Chinese lady for whom it is named, can be temperamental at times, and needs the right conditions to produce its finest lemon-yellow blooms. Not for the novice, in our opinion, but to the experienced gardener, a royal treat! 2.00

Mme. Henri Guillot. *Patent 337*. If you are beginning to suspect the promised veracity expressed in our introduction, by the way we are throwing superlatives about, we must remind you this list of the Newer Roses, began with the phrase, "These we consider the most worthy." For again, we must enthuse about a rose which won and held our admiration since the first time we saw the big, glossy foliage, the well-formed buds, and that indescribable coral tone in the large, rather flat, 25 petalled blooms. Both the A.R.S. and the Pacific Rose Society have rated Guillot above 80%, also a variety must be "super" to win top honors at Bagatelle, France. Our supply of bush type is limited, but we have the climbers, in which class Mme. Henri Guillot is in top form. 1.50

Mrs. Sam McGredy. Not new, but its popularity increases yearly, and it would be hard to name either a newer or older rose, which excels it, in the coppery-orange and red-toned class, so difficult for cold type to describe. While Mr. Hennessey emphasizes its "Queen of the Rose Shows" superiority for the Pacific Northwest, we have seen it performing beautifully in the inland California valleys, matching beauty with the best of the hot-weather varieties. Rated 85% by the A.R.S., granted First Class Certificate by the N.R.S. and given second place, by the British last year, for the "Best Rose in General Garden Cultivation."

Both bush and climbers available; please specify. 1.50

Narzisse. *Patent pending*. A handsome, maize-yellow patrician rose, on extremely long stems, at its best in the inland districts, where the large, double blooms open to greatest perfection. Rated sixth best rose in America, and 85% by the A.R.S. This is an exhibition rose for the experienced gardener only, in our opinion, although its exceptional A.R.S. rating indicates high popularity. 1.50

Nellie E. Hillock. *Patent 185*. Somehow the honest, wholesome name which this rose bears, seems to keynote its description, for Nellie is a lusty lass, short waisted and broad in the beam, with a glow of health in plant and flower which warms our hearts. The big, 60 petalled, peony-like blooms are silvery pink, reverse old-rose. Be kind to our Nell—we like her! 1.50

Pink Dawn. This rose of 1935, finds itself among "those considered most worthy" because of this writer's personal liking for it in Redlands, where the spring and fall blooms, especially, justify the word entrancing. Says the NRS, tersely, "*Salmon pink, shaded gold; 43 Petals; vigorous; fragrant; free of disease; does not mind wet; especially good in autumn. Granted Second Class Certificate.*" While the ARS rating is only 50%, some eastern rose catalogues call it, "*One of the best modern pink roses.*" So—once again, difference of opinion makes another horse race. Pink Dawn can bear our racing colors all the time! 1.50

Peace. *Patented.* So many superlatives are appearing in so many catalogues about this master rose, we feel our humble ditto can be omitted here. But we believe you will all enjoy the reproduction below of a page from the American Rose Society's "Proof of the Pudding," in which PEACE is rated by the Society's members from coast to coast.

250

THE 1946 PROOF OF THE PUDDING 227

PEACE. HT. Lemon-yellow, rose edge. (F. Meilland; int. U.S., C-P '45) Pat. 591. ARA '45.

I. *Burt*, Mass.: (1 pl., 1 yr.) A real find. Wonderful creamy yellow with pink tints; unusually fine foliage; vigorous. — A. *Foot*, Mass.: Impossible to praise this rose too highly; cut roses the last of October; a profuse bloomer; beautiful beyond description. *Piester*, Conn.: (5 pls., 3 yrs.; 30 pls., 1 yr.) Entrancing color: pale yellow washed at edge with pink; variable; very large-cupped bloom on strong stem; hardy, rugged. — A. *Sweetser*, Mass.: (1 pl., 1 yr.) All the praise given to it is due. — A. II. *Brooklyn Botanic Garden*, N.Y.: (9 pls., 1 yr.) Growth sturdy; foliage excellent; bloomed freely; lost pink tint on petals with intense heat of summer. — A. *Gohl*, N.Y.: (6 pls., 1 yr.) Plant characteristics appear quite similar to *Condesa de Sástago*; flowers observed in late July were large firm-petalled and clear-colored. One fault, like *Sástago*: it has too short stems and by late August, plants badly mildewed. — B. *MacAndrews*, N.Y.: (2 pls., 2 yrs.; 1 pl., 1 yr.) This is a super rose on a super bush; canes like fishing poles; huge, globular yellow buds open into blooms that flush pink and age very slowly and attractively. — A. III. *Cobb*, Pa.: (4 pls., 2 yrs.) One of the finest of roses. — B. *Forrest*, Pa.: (12 pls., 2 yrs.) This variety is a triumph in rose hybridizing. — A. *Glaes*, Pa.: (2 pls., 1 yr.) This really is something! The enormous blooms came on a 4-foot plant, the color transition is exquisite. — A. *Snyder*, Pa.: (6 pls., 3 yrs.; 21 pls., 1 yr.) Outstanding in every way except that it black-spots. — A. IV. *Taylor*, Va.: (1 pl., 1 yr.) The early spring blooms were unusually fine; excellent form and color and dark rich foliage! It has had some blackspot. — B. *Taylor*, Md.: (2 pls., 1 yr.) Wonderful in every way; unusual coloring: yellow overlaid with pink. — A. V. *Huetzel*, Tenn.: (4 pls., 1 yr.) Spring blooms are good but no exhibition bloom: white with a pink edge. — C. VII. *Campbell*, Ohio: (1 pl., 1 yr.) It looks like the catalog descriptions. In bloom from the first of May. Every rose a picture. *Kern*, Ohio: (6 pls., 1 and 2 yrs.) This rose should be in everyone's garden. It has all the qualifications a rose should have. No. 1 rose in my garden this year. — A. VIII. *Pfister*, Ill.: (2 pls., 1 and 2 yrs.) This is the rose of the decade in our estimation. — A. X. *Volz*, Ia.: (3 pls., 2 yrs.) Large glossy leaves on medium-sized, vigorous plant; well-formed bloom of good color. — B. *Wilcox*, Minn.: (2 pls., 1 yr.) This looks like a comer. Some do not like the form of blossom but I do. — A. XII. *Horsley*, Wyo.: (25 pls., 1 yr.) An extraordinary rose destined to be planted universally. Big, stately buds unfurl with ever-changing hues much like a colorful sunrise. The open flowers present a pleasing blend of whitish-orchid with shimmering iridescence that is truly heavenly. I'm especially fond of it since I helped Jinx christen it at the Pasadena Show. — A. XIII. *Fratus*, Cal.: (1 pl., 1 yr.) Sturdy plant to 4 feet high in first season; disease resistant; abundant bloom; sweet fragrance; its color transition is outstanding. — A. *Horn*, Cal.: (1 pl., 1 yr.) The plant I received didn't produce blooms like those I admired at Mr. Stocking's place last fall. The blooms were small and thin. *McDonough*, Cal.: (4 pls., 1 yr.) The winner of them all. Beautiful in all stages of bloom from bud to wide open; disease proof foliage. A coming champion in the shows if I know my roses. — A. *Neuman*, Cal.: (1 pl., 1 yr.) A wonderful rose in every way. Good growth; no rust; no mildew; plenty of blooms of excellent color in spring and fall. — A. XIV. *Alling*, Ore.: (1 pl., ½ yr.) Large, medium yellow to almost cream in hot weather; suffused pink to lavender at edges; fragrance variable but stronger after cutting; show type but late bloomer here; dense, large, almost glaucous green foliage; slight mildew; rather shy bloomer so far but planted too late for this country. A "must" for every man's garden. — A. *Edmunds*, Ore.: (4 pls., 3 yrs.; 40 pls., 1 yr.) A transformation rose which is living up to its name; may mark a new era. From unfolding yellow bud to ruffled cream and rose open bloom, one goes to it again and again. Most vigorous hybrid tea in our garden. — A. *Matthews*, Ore.: This rose is making a fine showing at the test garden; also, at Lewis and Clark College. Comes yellow and changes to white. — A. *Milbrath*, Ore.: (3 pls., 1 yr.) A gorgeous bud and bloom on very vigorous bush with dark green glossy foliage. It is a "must have." — A. —NR 9.5.

Santa Anita. And, speaking of racing, the alphabet brings us to Santa Anita. Whether "this is just another good pink rose," or justifies a more thrilling description, we will let better authorities than we decide. From the roseman's "bible," Dr. McFarland's "Modern Roses," we quote—"1940. *Bud long pointed; flower large, double, high-centered, uniform soft silvery pink. Foliage light. Vigorous, bushy; profuse, recurrent bloom.*" From the highly esteemed catalogue of Wayside Gardens, we take the liberty of reprinting, "*Santa Anita is an outstanding rose. The perfectly formed, long pointed buds unfold into beautifully shaped flowers of pure peach-blossom pink. No matter how hot or how brilliant the sun may be, the color of Santa Anita remains pure; there is no bleaching or discoloration from bud to faded flower. The color is 'sunfast.' Santa Anita is the first rose to bloom and it flowers bountifully from beginning to end of season. The plants are rugged and not too tall. A lovely pink variety which, because of its merits, belongs among the best of the pink Roses.*" Rated 79%, and twelfth on the list of best roses by the A.R.S. Well, there you are, friends. Will you have a Santa Anita? 1.50

Scorcher. Climbing Hybrid Tea. An Allister Clark creation from Australia. If the delightful Mrs. Keays, needs any endorsement for her statement that "color is intangible from a flower in a garden to a sentence in a book," certainly Scorcher would provide an apt illustration, for its color refuses to succumb to our limited vocabulary and I doubt if it can be found on a color chart. You will have to order Scorcher and see. It repeats for us, grows well, and its large, semi-double blooms, somewhere in the scarlet-crimson color range, will be different from anything you are now growing. Everybody won't like Scorcher but *you* will! 1.50

Sensation. From the emphasis we are giving to color throughout these rose descriptions, you will judge rightly that in modern roses, we are "color hounds." Given a reasonably robust plant for the under-pinning, with a steady blooming habit, our preferences go to the distinctive colorings—The Grande Duchesse Charlottes, the Mark Sullivans, the Mme. Henri Guillots, Scorcher, Contrast, and the like, for it is on the point of color, which hybrid teas chiefly differ. And as your rose-beds increase, you, too, will be shading your liking for all pink, red, or yellow, and will be seeking the rarer tints. Sensation is one of those roses, and deserves the little prologue we are giving it. Not grown very much for the garden, yet the beauty of its varied tones, scarlet-crimson-maroon, is unexcelled. 1.50

Show Girl. *Patented.* One of the latest from W. E. Lammerts, and another offspring of the handsome Crimson Glory. Very vigorous to four feet, upright, bushy and healthy. Flowers are large, semi-double, cupped, deep pink, on long stems; likes full sun. We can quote no more distinguished authority than Fred Edmunds, Curator of the International Rose Test Gardens in Portland, who says, "*One of the best deep pink exhibition and garden roses for this section. Bushy, well foliated plants. Plenty of long pointed, well formed buds.*" 2.00

Sierra Glow. *Patent 521.* The public, of course, will make the final and all-important decision, but every hybridizer is entitled to his favorites, and this one rates high with its originator, W. E. Lammerts. Growth is low to two feet, spreading. Bud is urn-shaped, light pink, opening to a large, double flower, described, "salmon-orange heart, with silver-pink on outer half of petals, reverse deep rose." Rich fragrance. We have not had Sierra Glow under observation here in our display garden, but if Dr. Lammerts says its good, it is! 1.50

Snowbird. When the "Proof of the Pudding" of the A.R.S. rates a rose 86%, this writer is willing to throw up his hat and join in the shouting, even though he likes his white roses "big and handsome." Handsome enough it is; and a rather belligerent Snowbird admirer once thrust some pretty big blooms under my dodging nose, forcing a hasty admission that Snowbird is not "puny." Big or not so big, Snowbird is a splendid, bushy plant, uncomplaining in any weather or location, and gives bountifully, well formed, double white blooms—mighty good smelling, too. We hesitate to mention again, the old feud in the Pacific Rose Society between Pedralbes and Snowbird, as to which is the better white rose, fearing to offend the "girl with the Pedralbes complex," but much as we respect this lady's judgment, we cannot seem to find Pedralbes listed in this catalogue. But *Snowbird is!* 1.50

Susan Louise. This is the truly ever-blooming bush form of the beautiful climber, Belle of Portugal, and in our opinion *one of the most valuable and delightful roses in existence*, regardless of color, form, or age. For the novice or the professional, at the beach or the desert, Susan Louise gives happily and constantly. Buds are very long-pointed, deep pink, excellent for bouquets; the open flower is semi-double, flesh-pink, charming and graceful. Robust grower to 5 feet or more. This, friends, is a ROSE! 1.50

The Doctor. It is fitting we should end our descriptions of the Newer Roses, with quotations from the National Rose Society of England, to whom we have been indebted for much valuable information printed herein. The Doctor had to cross the big pond to England and back again, before it received due recognition in this country. Says N. P. Harvey, writing from England in the NRS annual, 1946, "*What of the Doctor? I find that it appreciates rich soil, and the foliage is then more ample and growth stronger. The shape and the way the bloom develops and unfolds is quite distinctive—practically every one is perfect as regards form, while the colour is definitely maintained until the petals drop. The American Rose Annual rightly calls it 'One of the largest of all Roses, one of the most beautiful, and one of the sweetest.'*" And we add the official description by the NRS, "*Bright silvery rose; petals 29. Moderately vigorous. Exhibition, bedding type. Delightfully fragrant. Free of disease. Does not mind wet. Opens to an enormous bloom that lasts over a long period. A very beautiful variety. First Class Trial Ground Certificate, 1945.*" If you are not sold on The Doctor by now, you are hopeless. 1.50

SUGGESTIONS FOR ORDERING

THREE WISE MEN IN A NURSERY

1st Nurseryman, "We grow roses that GROW!"

2nd Nurseryman, "I grow roses I LIKE!"

3rd Nurseryman, "We grow roses the customers WANT!"

As this catalogue is written in October, 1946, it again appears the total supply of roses in this country, will be inadequate for the strong and increasing demand. Our own supplies are tripled, and much of the past season's disappointment will be eliminated, but the wisdom of ordering PROMPTLY, still applies.

CALIFORNIA-GROWN ROSES, bare-root, are seldom harvested, hardened and ready for planting much before January first. This we know is disturbing to those who live in severe climates, with late Springs, and there is much urging of fall buying by eastern nurserymen. The relative merits of fall or spring planting eastern-grown roses, we do not know from direct experience. We would imagine the loss through severe winter temperatures on young plants, would be great. But we are confident our California roses, spring-planted in ANY location, will exceed the performance of their eastern-grown rivals. The famous California sunshine, and all-year growing climate works on roses as it does on oranges and humans.

GUARANTEE. Rose-lovers are the finest and fairest retail customers in the commercial world. We do not hesitate therefore, to guarantee, unconditionally, that our plants are true to grade and variety, "hale and hearty," ready and eager to grow and flower. Most, but not all varieties, old or new, bloom the first year planted. Our interest in your roses does not end with the filling of your order.

ANOTHER WORD ABOUT PRICES. For the benefit of our new customers, we will repeat our former explanation of the word "Patented" which appears in this catalogue's description of some of the newer roses. "A new variety of rose may be patented the same as any gadget may be patented. The owner then has the reproducing of his variety in his control for seventeen years, and receives a well-deserved royalty for his creation, which royalty is included in the price to you."

We need not say that the increasing costs of materials and labor has affected rose growing also, and it has taken much determined effort to continue producing limited quantities of the old-favorites in face of the trend toward cheaper mass production of the more common, popular varieties. We have adopted the sound principal of discount for quantity, 10% if your order exceeds 20 plants, which shares with you the savings below the relatively high cost of packaging and delivering small orders.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Our terms, cash with order, prompt refunds when necessary, are general throughout the nursery business, and appear entirely satisfactory to all customers. Please add the sales tax of 2½% in California only.

WE PREPAY DELIVERY CHARGES to any address, on all orders of 5 plants or more. On smaller orders, please add 15c per plant for packaging and delivery.

ORDER BLANK. We have included a convenient and improved order form.

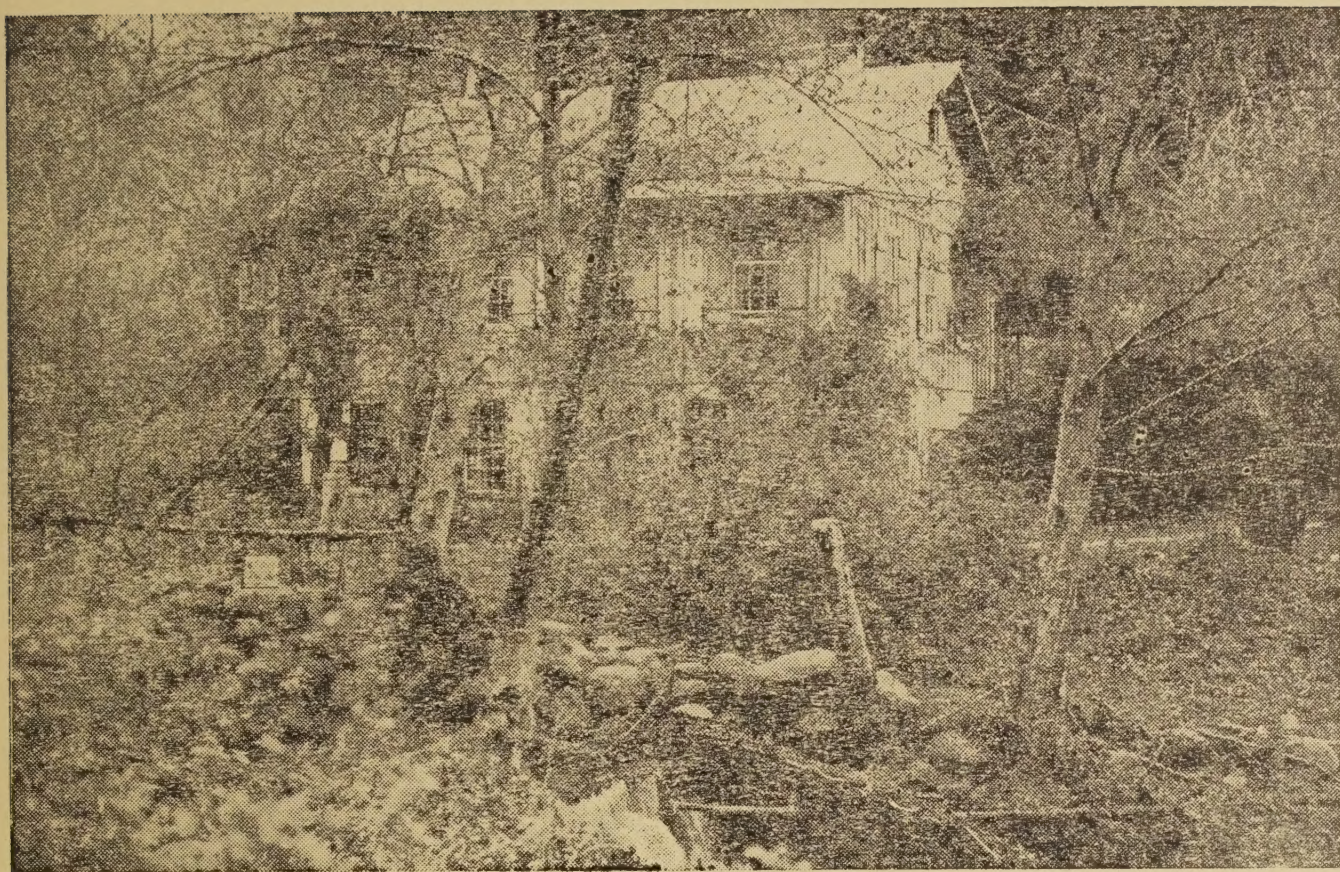
"MY FRIEND THE ROSE," much loved book on Old Roses, by the late Francis E. Lester, will be sent, all charges paid, on receipt of \$2.50. "This is no manual on rose culture, but a fireside conversation with a man whose very creed of living was founded on what his roses had taught him through the years."

"REGIONAL VARIATION IN ROSE GROWING," by the well known rose expert Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, in pamphlet form describes with intimate knowledge and clarity, the special conditions effecting success with roses in the different California localities and how best to meet them. Sent gratis with California orders.

Lester Rose Gardens

MRS. FRANCIS E. LESTER — WILL TILLOTSON

ROUTE 5, BOX 326—WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA



LOOKING ACROSS THE STREAM TOWARD THE LESTER COTTAGE, EARLY SPRING 1946



"I have been thinking about Gardens—of the true pleasure in them. And I find, that if the garden be great, it is not in green breadths of lawn or long perspective of terraces or trees, or well-kept borders, or in chosen peeps of outland country that our soul delights. If the place be small, it is not the trimness of gravel paths or the brilliancy of ordered flower-beds that most do please. The true pleasure everywhere in every garden is the charm of individual interest—whether among the rough stones of the rockery, or in the sunny bit under an old wall, or in some other perhaps unfrequented corner of the garden, where grows some tender plant whose flowering is watched and waited for. It is the living, human love between us and our flowers; the love which impels us to return again and again to the same spot and never weary, whatever may be our favorite's name. It is this intense feeling for his plants and this alone, that makes the place dear to the soul of the garden-lover."

—SYLVANA'S LETTERS TO AN UNKNOWN FRIEND



KATHLEEN